

Saddam offers treaty 'to confront evil-doers who want to harm Muslims'

## Iraq seeks Iran peace deal in hunt for allies

From JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO IN DUBAI AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

IRAQ yesterday sought formal peace with Iran to free its million-strong army to concentrate on the Gulf crisis. The offer was cautiously welcomed by Tehran.

In a letter addressing President Rafsanjani as "my dear brother", President Saddam Hussein agreed to all Iranian demands, two years after fighting in the eight-year Gulf war ceased.

The move underlined Iraq's desperate quest for allies in the face of international sanctions and the Western and Arab armies building up in the region in response to his seizure of Kuwait. Iran has condemned the invasion, but the peace initiative indicates that Iraq hopes it may become a lifeline in beating the UN trade embargo.

Baghdad is to start withdrawing troops from Iran tomorrow and has asked the Red Cross to help with the release of more than 30,000 Iranian prisoners. Iran still holds about 70,000 Iraqis.

President Saddam told Iran: "Everything you wanted and concentrated upon has been realised." That included the reinstatement of the 1975 Algiers Treaty dividing the Shatt al-Arab waterway between the two countries. President Saddam publicly tore up that treaty shortly before his army invaded Iran.

The waterway forms the southern border between the two countries and was vital to Iraq, but since the capture of Kuwait with its extensive port

### INSIDE

### A-levels show improvement

Schools will get A-level results for more than 200,000 sixth-formers this morning showing that students performed slightly better than last year.

Critics had predicted the results would be worse than last year, because pupils tested took the GSCE. They maintained the examination, which replaced the O-level, did not prepare them for the more academically rigorous A-level, particularly in mathematics, science and modern languages. Figures in these subjects are unchanged or improved..... Page 7

### Guinness trial

The Guinness trial was about protecting the small investor. Jurors at Southwark Crown Court were told by the judge yesterday. Suggestions that it just involved "fat cat" fighting it out in the City and was a victimless crime were not correct..... Page 5

**'Father's legacy'**  
The son of the late military ruler General Zia has returned to Pakistan to "carry on my father's legacy". Ijaz ul-Haq has spoken at 66 meetings. "I only have to sit in my car and a thousand come to kiss my hand"..... Page 9

**Township deaths**  
The death toll in the black townships east of Johannesburg stood at 120, with more than 250 injured, police reported yesterday, adding that there was every indication it could be higher. "We just keep finding bodies"..... Page 20

### Exam results

Degrees awarded by Liverpool University appear tomorrow. Ulster University results appear today..... Page 24

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By KEVIN EASON  
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE daily car journey is an ordeal of ignorance for thousands of drivers who are apparently completely baffled by the nation's road signs.

Three out of ten motorists could not identify a "keep left" sign for researchers carrying out a survey and many were unable to answer questions on the Highway Code. Commercial drivers fared better, although an alarming 17 per cent still could not recognise one of the most common signs on the road.

The survey was carried out for BRS, Britain's largest transport company, at motorway service stations in the Midlands and the West Country. The

firm was trying to discover how great a part driver error plays in the 240,000 accidents in Britain each year, which result in 5,000 deaths.

Howard Whittingham, the BRS driver training manager, said that modern vehicles were packed with safety gadgets, from anti-lock brakes to improved tyres, but that with 90 per cent of accidents due to human error, these features would never play a major role in reducing accidents. "If motorists were to study the Highway Code and adhere to its guidelines, then this would be the most major step in the right direction and would considerably reduce the 5,000 deaths on our roads each year."

The survey was carried out for BRS, Britain's largest transport company, at motorway service stations in the Midlands and the West Country. The

means the only one to baffle many of the 190 car drivers and 204 lorry drivers questioned. Signs carrying safety warnings were among those confounding drivers. Two per cent of car drivers could not identify a "no overtaking" sign, and 55 per cent of car and truck drivers did not know that two horizontal arrows pointing in opposite directions meant that traffic was crossing their one-way road.

Twenty-four per cent of car drivers were unable to name the sign that warns motorists of a level crossing without barriers, although only 7 per cent of truck drivers could not identify the warning.

The white disc with a red rim that prohibits vehicles from entering my

means the greatest number of motorists. Only 7 per cent of car drivers and 24 per cent of truck drivers could say what it meant.

There were also worrying indications that many drivers may neglect important safety recommendations in the Highway Code. When asked when they last checked their tyre depth, only half of the car drivers questioned said they had done so in the previous week. Thirteen per cent admitted that they had examined the tread only sometime in the previous six months.

Motorway driving standards also gave cause for concern. Although almost all drivers knew there was a

Continued on page 26, col 3



Shuttle diplomat: King Hussein of Jordan arriving yesterday at Andrews air force base near Washington

## King Husain tries to buy more time

From PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush today meets King Husain of Jordan for a conference that could decide the course of events in the Gulf. The two men are old friends, but their interests now are far apart.

The president is a man in a hurry. He has overseen the fastest American military build-up since the Korean war, the greatest diplomatic triumph in the history of the United Nations and a level of domestic support which has surprised colleagues and critics alike. But he is terrified of being abandoned by fickle allies, stabbed in the back by Democrat opponents and stranded in a tank-strewn desert, a "Vietnam in the sand" as a White House aide put it yesterday. King Husain

wants almost the precise opposite. He needs time.

If he sides with President Bush, bars Iraq from using Aqaba and joins the UN blockade, his mainly Palestinian population, inspired by President Saddam Hussein, may overthrow his rule just as his Iraqi Hashemite kingman, King Faisal II, was overthrown and killed 32 years ago.

President Saddam's own forces could be at the gates of Amman in 12 hours. If, however, he joins forces with Iraq, he faces a trade embargo and international hostility which could be no less destructive of his fragile throne.

King Husain wants to avoid a choice. In American eyes, he has taken upon himself the role of mediator not because he believes that a negotiated settlement can be found but because mediation is the only way he can buy some small nation-preserving degree of neutrality.

Jordan was created after the first world war as a buffer state between greater powers and has survived only because its king has made a lifetime study of the consequence of that fact. He is "King Stradie", a Republican adviser said yesterday, echoing the taunt that Mr Bush hurled at his rival, Bob Dole, in the 1988 New Hampshire primary.

In pursuit of unity with his "Arab brothers", King Husain expelled British military advisers in 1956, joined a lost war against Israel in 1967 and stood closest by Iraq at the beginning of the current conflict. In search of American support, he maintained diplomatic relations with Washington after the humiliation of 1967, and played a central role

Continued on page 26, col 5

## Debt-laden Queensway goes into receivership

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

LOWNDES Queensway, the furniture and carpet group, which trades out of 270 stores under the names Queensway, Carpetland and General Carpet, has gone into receivership owing about £300 million. About 4,000 jobs are at risk.

Customers who are believed to have given Lowndes some £14 million in deposits in recent weeks may get their money back. The group put in place a £1.5 million insurance scheme in January to cover customers' deposits.

The scheme, which runs out in five months' time, is triggered when the receivers wind up Lowndes, which means there could be a delay before customers receive their money. Customers who have paid by credit card for goods that they have not received may be compensated by their credit card company.

The group, which had been built up by Sir Phil Harris, was the subject of a £450 million debt-laden takeover bid by James Gulliver two years ago. Yesterday morning, the group's shares were suspended on the Stock Exchange at 1 1/4p, valuing the company at only £12 million. Shareholders are expected to receive nothing for their shares.

Nigel Hamilton and Terry Carter, partners in Ernst & Young, the accountancy firm, were appointed receivers at 11pm on Tuesday after the Lowndes directors and their bankers decided that the business could no longer continue without contravening the Insolvency Act.

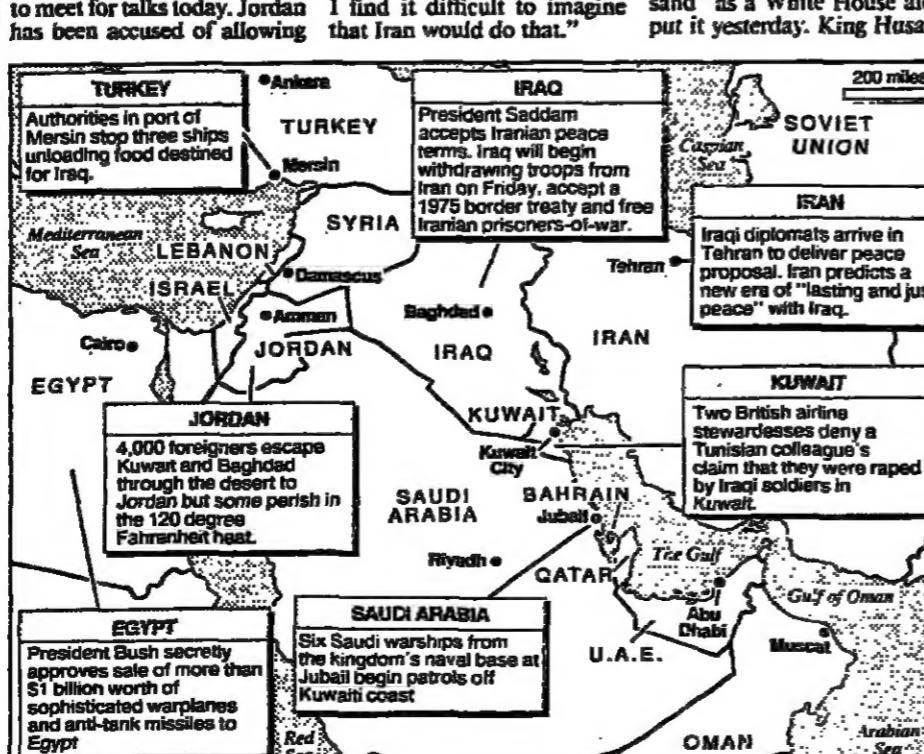
Shop managers were telephoned early yesterday morning and told not to open the shops. Mr Hamilton said that

the shops would be shut for stocktaking while his team assessed the extent of the group's debt, but should be trading again by Saturday.

He said that he could not say how many jobs would eventually be lost, but was optimistic that some of the stores may be sold as going concerns to other retailers, saving some jobs.

Mr Hamilton said that he thought it was disturbing that a company should go into

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## Motorists' blind spot over road traffic signs

By KEVIN EASON

MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

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Continued on page 26, col 3

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Times 2

Thank you everybody, rescued girl says

By ROBIN YOUNG

GEMMA Lawrence, the seven-year-old girl who disappeared from her family's holiday caravan in Bridport, Dorset, last Sunday, had a six-word message for her well-wishers yesterday. Clutching one of the many toys she has been sent since being returned to her parents, she said in a small voice: "Thank you, everybody, for helping me."

Gemma, whose ordeal ended on Tuesday, looked pale but happy. She and her parents, Nicholas, aged 32, and Gaynor, aged 29, from Wantage in Oxfordshire, posed for pictures for a minute on the lawn of a council office in Bridport. Gemma, her long, dark hair pinned back from her face, was wearing a white T-shirt and cardigan and a turquoise skirt. She held her father's hand tightly while smiling at the photographers.

Gemma had been missing for 56 hours before being found, concealed at an empty house, only 200 yards from the holiday caravan in which she and her family had been sleeping when she disappeared.

Her T-shirt yesterday bore the logo of the caravan site's Tiger Club, and, as well as the Minnie Mouse soft toy, she was carrying two fluffy dogs. A toy rabbit awaited her at the council office. As the photocall ended, her mother gently prompted Gemma to thank those who helped search for her.

The family arrived and departed in an unmarked police car, accompanied by two women police officers trained in counselling.

The Chief Constable of Dorset, Brian Wright, said earlier that hundreds of cards, letters and cuddly toys had been sent to Gemma. He said a doctor had told him the girl had recovered "remarkably well" from her ordeal. "She thinks it was a little adventure."

A police spokesman said Gemma and her parents, her six-year-old sister, Lisa, and four-month-old brother, Charlotte, would now have a few quiet days' holiday together elsewhere.

A 23-year-old unemployed man appeared before Weymouth magistrates yesterday charged with abducting a child.

Paul Stephen Burton, of no fixed address, was remanded in police custody for three days.

Dressed in a short-sleeved, open-neck, light-blue shirt and lightweight, blue trousers, he stood silent during the nine-minute hearing.

Tim Shorter, appearing for Mr Burton, made no application for bail. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

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## OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT: THE WORLD'S RESPONSE

## Shuttle diplomacy puts King Husain's survival skills to the test.

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU  
IN NICOSIA

WHEN he meets President Bush for emergency talks today, King Husain of Jordan faces the most critical test of the negotiating skills which have helped him survive the quicksands of Middle Eastern politics for 38 years. He will be forced to choose between two courses of action, either of which could prove fatal to his regime.

Mr Bush will insist that he cuts Iraq's last lifeline, the Red Sea port of Aqaba, which is a gaping hole in the global blockade. If he does, King Husain will draw down the wrath of Saddam Hussein, his staunchest regional ally, and provoke unrest at home, where thousands have volunteered to fight for the Iraqi leader.

Mr Bush has made it clear that he will not allow the Jordanian monarch to sit on the fence. As King Husain's jet was touching down in Washington, Mr Bush threatened to blockade Aqaba. In

return, he hinted that Jordan could expect a handsome pay-off to help his ailing economy, which is heavily dependent on exports to Iraq.

Mr Bush might be in danger of expecting too much from the king. If he pushes too hard, he could be overthrown in a revolution whose leaders, whether Palestinians or Islamic fundamentalists, could not be expected to have President Bush's best interests at heart.

President Saddam could also turn on his ally as quickly as he did against President Mubarak of Egypt, his colleague in the short-lived Arab Co-operation Council. For King Husain there is a precedent closer to home: President Saddam was one of the plotters who in 1958 murdered his Hashemite cousin, King Faisal II of Iraq. As the Iraqi leader has shown in recent weeks, he is no lover of monarchies.

Critics of the king in the United States see his shuttle from Baghdad to Washington as an

indication of his duplicity: he will double-cross one ally if the other makes him a better offer.

Many in the West were infuriated that King Husain, long regarded as the most moderate and pro-Western of Arab leaders, educated at Harrow and Sandhurst and a close friend of Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, should, after President Saddam's troops stormed into Kuwait, describe the Iraqi leader as a man "who has built his own country up, who believes in the Arab world and who is... a patriot".

His remarks must have dismayed Margaret Thatcher, a long-time supporter, and his friends in Western diplomatic circles where he is known with affection as the Plucky Little King.

Certainly his Western credentials are better than any other Arab leader. His second wife, Toni Gardiner, was British, and his current and fourth spouse, Queen Noor, has an Arab-American background. Equally – and a point Western allies

like President Bush tend to forget – the king's Arab credentials are unique and the envy of his rivals. He claims direct descent from the Prophet Muhammad through his ancestors, the family of Beni Hashem.

Jordanian officials believe that the king has an ace up his sleeve that will avert a war between his two allies and confirm his status as an invaluable mediator between the West and the Arabs. This is a message from President Saddam to President Bush which they say includes what amounts to a climb-down by the Iraqi leader: an international conference to discuss withdrawing Iraqi troops from Kuwait, and guarantees that Iraq will not attack Saudi Arabia, in return for an end to the massing of American forces in the Gulf. His supporters say he would not have embarked on such a high-profile mission unless he was certain of success.

The king's skills cannot be underestimated. His

throne is the hottest seat in the Middle East, yet he has remained on it for nearly four decades. He has survived six attempts on his life and nearly as many wars, one of them quasi-civil when in 1970 his large Palestinian constituency rose against him with Syrian support.

After Camp David he was left to face Israel alone on the front line with a hostile Syria, and most recently has had to fight off attempts by Israeli rightwingers to turn Jordan into a Palestine.

In 1967 he supported the former Egyptian leader, Gamal Abdel Nasser, and lost half his kingdom to the Israelis. This time he has to choose between the man who regards himself as Nasser's natural heir and the United States. Whichever way he jumps, he could lose his whole kingdom.

Amer Tahrir, page 10

## WASHINGTON

## Bush condemns the Iraqi leader as an aggressor and liar

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush delivered his most searing condemnation yet of President Saddam Hussein yesterday, dismissing the Iraqi leader's claim that the Gulf conflict was a struggle of Arab against infidel and asserting the US was "striking a blow for the principle that mistake does not make right".

Addressing America's most senior military officers at the Pentagon, Mr Bush compared President Saddam to Hitler: "A half-century ago, our nation and the world paid dearly for appeasing an aggressor who should – and could – have been stopped. We are not about to make the same mistake twice."

No one, he said, "should doubt our staying power or

determination". A day before his vital meeting with King Husain of Jordan, Mr Bush also offered another clear warning to the monarch whose country has been accused of violating the comprehensive United Nations trade embargo against Iraq.

The multinational naval force now gathering in Middle Eastern waters "must ensure that no goods get in – and that not one drop of oil gets out", he said.

The American people, Congress, US allies and the "vast majority" of Arab people were "with us", he said, and insisted that sanctions were working and that America's "honourable goals" would be achieved.

## ABOARD HMS YORK

## British sailors on edge awaiting the unknown

"ONE minute you're asleep. The next you're being rumbled out of bed," said John Chivers, aged 17, an engineer on the British navy destroyer York patrolling the Gulf.

He said that since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2, the York's crew had been ordered to action stations five times after detecting activity by the Iraqi air force.

"Some of the lads are a bit disappointed because leave has been cancelled but it is also exciting to be waiting for the unexpected," said Chivers, who is from Wakefield.

Tom Rowley, aged 21, from Scarborough said: "Everyone's a bit apprehensive." Nick Jarrett, 23, who served during the 1980-8 Gulf War, said the biggest difference was that the main threat now was from an Iraqi air attack rather than Iranian gunboats.

Captain Anthony McEwen,

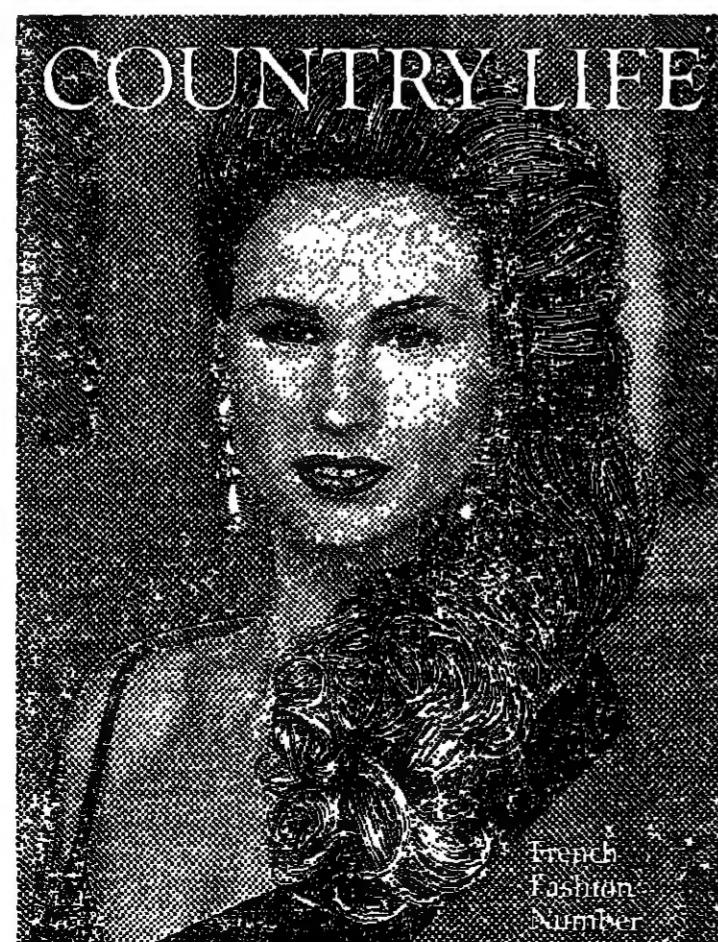
who commands Britain's Armilla patrol in the Gulf, told reporters his instructions from London would enable him to "carry out government policy" but declined to say whether the York would stop and board ships suspected of breaking the embargo.

He said he believed the threat from chemical weapons had been exaggerated, at least for the Royal Navy, because in ships were prepared to operate and fight under chemical attack.

British warships could also deal with Exocet missiles, which Iraqi warplanes fired frequently during the Gulf War, Captain McEwen said.

"We were moored alongside Dubai on a courtesy visit when the news of the invasion came. I think everyone then realised the game was now different. I would describe the mood as realistic," he added.

## French Fashion Number



- The little black dress goes minimal
- Ballgowns: how they are now
- Frogmore – a Royal residence now open
- The triumph of Peper Harow Gardens
- Edwardian cricket paintings

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One for the road: a long-distance lorry driver taking a puff from his water-pipe before leaving the Jordanian Red Sea port of Aqaba. Traffic through the port is in dispute between President Bush and King Husain.

## THE CALL-UP

## 'Weekend warriors' on stand-by

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon is preparing to mobilise possibly tens of thousands of reserve forces to support its regular troops in Saudi Arabia and the United States, the first such mass mobilisation since the start of the Tet offensive in Vietnam in 1968.

Pentagon sources have indicated that up to 80,000 reservists and national guardsmen could be called up to support regular forces.

The Pentagon has already had to charter commercial aircraft to fly troops to Saudi Arabia and is activating ageing freighters from its reserve fleet to help transport tanks.

In a third development, a senior official at the Iraqi foreign ministry has told the US television network ABC that around 3,000 Americans in Kuwait and Iraq are "restricted" and will not be allowed to leave until the Gulf confrontation is ended. This was the closest either side has come to calling them hostages.

Independent defence experts have estimated that the military deployment to Saudi Arabia is costing about \$300 million a month, a figure which could soar to \$1 billion a day if a full-scale war broke



Cheney: forces 'heavily reliant' on US reservists

out. Mr Bush, already struggling to contain a large US budget deficit, has indicated that Saudi Arabia, Japan and other nations may contribute.

"The Japanese are more than ready to entertain proposals along those lines," he said.

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Saudi Arabia and allow the sale of at least 12 more.

The administration wants to enhance the capacity of these nations to defend themselves against present or future Iraqi aggression, but such sales to potential adversaries of Israel may encounter stiff opposition on Capitol Hill. Congressmen expressed concern about pumping yet more weapons into such a volatile region, and pointed out that much of Kuwait's military hardware now belonged to Iraq.

It would be tragic if the administration concluded from this experience that additional arms sales are the answer. We would make a tinderbox even more volatile," said Mel Levine, a Democrat on the House Middle East sub-committee.

The Iraqi description of Americans in Iraq and Kuwait as "restricted" was given to Ted Koppel, an ABC news anchorman, and the first American newsmen allowed into that country. It was a description that contrasted sharply with Mr Bush's reference to the Americans on Tuesday as "inconvenienced people who want to get out".

There are nearly 9,000 Soviet citizens in Kuwait and Iraq, nearly 8,000 of them in Iraq. But Mr Gremitskikh said reports suggesting that several thousand were military advisers were wrong. He quoted defence ministry figures according to which 193 Soviet "military specialists" were working in Iraq, none of them in anything other than a training or support capacity.

He said he had no knowledge of any violent incidents involving Soviet citizens. "Iraq assured us that there is no threat to the safety of our people and we interpret this reply as responsible and serious," he said.

Mr Gremitskikh said Moscow and Washington were keeping in close and regular contact. Edward Shevardnadze, the foreign minister, broke his holiday to discuss the situation with the Indian foreign minister.

Moscow's special envoy, who will travel to Egypt and from there, it is hoped, to Baghdad, is Mikhail Sizikov, a former head of the Middle East department at the Soviet foreign ministry who has also worked as a deputy secretary-general at the United Nations.

## UNITED NATIONS

## Obscure military panel may be given naval role

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

EVERY fortnight top military officers from the five powers at the United Nations gather in the basement of the UN headquarters.

Their meetings, held in strict secrecy, generally last only five to ten minutes. All they do is to approve the record of the previous meeting and, as one diplomat joked, "decide how big the gins should be".

This peculiar UN ritual, last performed on Friday, has been going on for 45 years. But now the obscure panel, known as the Military Staff Committee, a co-ordinating body to formalise co-operation among navies in the Gulf that would prevent a repeat of the confusion in the region in the mid-1980s, when the waterway was full of warships from the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union and five other European powers, each acting independently to protect shipping during the Iran-Iraq war.

The Soviet Union has proposed that the committee be revived to take command of a possible UN naval force to enforce sanctions against Iraq, and the British and Americans have expressed interest in the idea. On Tuesday Robert Kimmitt, US Under Secretary of State, summoned ambassadors from the other four permanent members of the Security

Council – Britain, China, France and the Soviet Union – to the State Department in Washington to discuss the committee's possible role. The five powers agreed that their representatives at the UN in New York would continue the discussions, probably later this week.

Britain and the United States, which have imposed an effective blockade of Iraq, appear to favour using the Military Staff Committee as a co-ordinating body to formalise co-operation among navies in the Gulf that would prevent a repeat of the confusion in the region in the mid-1980s, when the waterway was full of warships from the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union and five other European powers, each acting independently to protect shipping during the Iran-Iraq war.

This does not put the naval forces under a UN commander or under UN command or control," one Western diplomat said. Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union had all

put forward ideas about the committee's possible role, diplomats said yesterday.

"The common denominator is that the effectiveness of the operation on the waters could be improved if the transmission belt between the navies and the United Nations is improved," one diplomat said. The Soviet Union has said that it would consider taking part in a blockade of Iraq to enforce UN sanctions only if it took place under the UN flag.

The suggestion to revive the committee came from Valentin Lozinski, the Soviet ambassador at the UN. The Soviet Union is this month's chairman of the committee; Britain takes over the chairmanship and hands it to the United States in October. The Soviet Union made a similar proposal for a UN flag force in the Gulf in 1987, as part of its "new thinking" in foreign policy, but superpower tensions then made it impossible.

The US decision to discuss the Soviet proposal breaks a long-standing

ing Pentagon taboo forbidding new agencies from playing any role in the Gulf. That could open the way for the Soviet Union to play a greater part elsewhere in the Middle East, which could be an important step towards an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Washington decided to consider the Soviet proposal after coming under widespread criticism for enforcing UN sanctions before the Security Council ordered a UN blockade.

*The New York Times* said in an editorial yesterday: "The first sour note has sounded in President Bush's exemplary management of the Gulf crisis. He is faulted for unilaterally ordering naval interdiction of Iraqi ports without waiting for United Nations support.

"Though Mr Bush acted legally, the criticism is valid. He can best respond by working with the Security Council to create a joint UN command to enforce mandatory economic sanctions against Iraq."

BAGHDAD

# Saddam offers Iran peace deal to free troops for the Gulf

From JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO IN DUBAI

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq yesterday offered Iran peace in order to concentrate his attention on the situation in the Gulf. Tehran's initial response ranged from cautious optimism to overt suspicion.

In a move that underlined Baghdad's military priorities and its desperate quest for allies, the Iraqi leader declared that his country accepted all the conditions for peace presented by Iran, including the 1975 Algiers treaty which divided the Shatt al-Arab waterway between Iraq and Iran.

President Saddam, who tore up the text of that treaty in front of television cameras shortly before his army invaded Iran ten years ago, addressed his offer to President Rafsanjani, whom he referred to as "my dear brother".

"Everything you wanted and concentrated upon has been realized," he told him in a message first read out by Iraqi radio.

His words left no doubt that Baghdad is seeking to balance the West's military build-up in the Gulf by redeploying the bulk of Iraq's army of one million men to occupied Kuwait and the frontier with Saudi Arabia.

Simultaneously Baghdad

plans to start the release of

more than 30,000 Iranian prisoners, many of whom have been languishing in Iraqi jails for nearly a decade.

"Perhaps we could co-operate in preserving the Gulf as a lake of peace and stability from foreign fleets and powers which are lurking," the message said in an implicit appeal for Iranian support. This co-operation, it added, would be vital to avoid keeping Iraq "outside the arena of the great duel" and to mobilise its forces "towards the objectives which all Muslims and honest Arabs have agreed is right".

An Iraqi delegation was expected to deliver General Saddam's message to Iranian leaders in Tehran last night while arrangements were already under way for the release of Iranian prisoners of war at the border crossing of Khaman in Iraq and Qasr-e Shirin in Iran.

Morteza Sarmadi, the foreign ministry spokesman in Tehran, told reporters that the Iraqi proposal could bring about a "lasting and just peace to the two countries and to the region." A formal response, however, would be given after receiving the proposal through the formal channels he said.

Tehran radio interrupted its broadcast to announce the Iraqi proposal, but soon afterwards it resumed its verbal attacks on President Saddam. "The python now coiled on Kuwait's chest and threatening other Gulf states is the same snake reared by world arrogance against Islamic Iran," it said.

Diplomats in the Gulf said last night that Iran is unlikely to proclaim immediately its acceptance. "The Iranians have got what they wanted, except the downfall of Saddam," observed a European diplomat. "They may just wait some time, as if to remind Saddam that he is now negotiating from a very weak position," he said.

Experts in the region predict that Tehran will most probably insist on international guarantees provided by resolution 598 of the United Nations Security Council. They also point out that, after ten years of hatred, President Rafsanjani faces the difficult task of convincing his people that a peace treaty with Iraq, not necessarily with General Saddam himself, remains the only alternative for the reconstruction of Iran.

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Letters, page 11

## CHRONOLOGY OF EIGHT YEARS OF GULF WAR

CHRONOLOGY of the eight-year war between Iran and Iraq: April 1, 1979: Ayatollah Khomeini, who returned to Tehran in February after the Shah was toppled, proclaims the Islamic Republic of Iran.

July 16: Saddam Hussein, vice-chairman of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, replaces Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr as president.

Sept 7, 1980: Saddam claims full sovereignty over the Shatt al-Arab waterway and abrogates the 1975 treaty giving the countries joint control.

Sept 18: Iran seizes residential areas and economic installations on the Iraqi side of the Shatt al-Arab.

Sept 20-22: Iraqi aircraft strike Tehran airport; army begins advance and later reaches the Karun river, several hundred miles into Iran.

Sept 26: UN Security Council adopts resolution 478 calling for ceasefire. Iran rejects call. May 10, 1981: Iran begins counter-attack, eventually pushes Iraqis back across the Karun river.

March 23, 1982: Saddam proposes withdrawal to international borders. Iran ignores the offer and continues to advance. 1983: Fighting continues, with Iran advancing.

Feb 23, 1984: First reports that Iraq has used chemical weapons. UN later confirms them.

Jan 6, 1987: Saddam calls for ceasefire. Iran again rejects it.

Jan 9-14: Iran seizes western bank of Shatt al-Arab, overruns key Iraqi defences east of Basra, launches new offensive in Mekane area.

May 17: Iraqi missile hits USS Stark in Gulf; 37 sailors killed.

Aug 23, 1988: US carrier

downs Iran Air passenger aircraft, killing 250.

July 18: Iran accepts year-old resolution 598 calling for ceasefire. Iraq had accepted it earlier.

Aug 20: Ceasefire takes hold, UN troops deploy along border.

Aug 25: Indirect Iran-Iraq negotiations begin in Geneva.

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## SHATT AL-ARAB

# Key waterway has played part in at least 25 wars

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU  
IN NICOSIA

FIVE days after President Saddam Hussein scrapped the treaty which gave half the Shatt al-Arab waterway to Iran, his troops crossed that country's border to begin a war that lasted eight years and claimed a million casualties.

Yesterday he agreed to settle the dispute over the channel which, until the invasion of Kuwait, was Baghdad's main link to the sea.

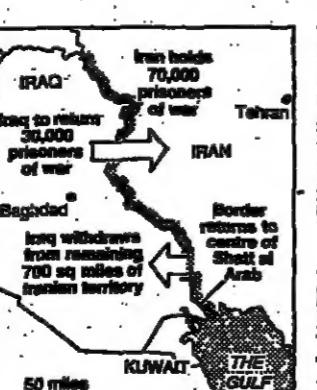
The dispute between Iran and Iraq over sovereignty of the channel, which forms their southern border, dates back at least 400 years and has featured in at least 25 wars. The 125-mile waterway is formed by the confluence of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers at the Iraqi town of Al Qurnah, the fabled site of Eden.

The waterway forms the historical, racial and religious divide between Arabs and the Persians. Iran and Iraq never even agreed on its name. To the Iranians, it is the Arvand Rud or the Arvand river; to the Iraqis it is the Shatt al-Arab, or River of Arabs.

Economically, it has been of vital importance to both countries. West of its entry into the Gulf, Iraq had only 10 miles of coastline. Iran has 1,400 miles of Gulf coastline and its waterway for its oil exports. Its importance to Iraq has diminished dramatically since it annexed Kuwait.

Past agreements over its sovereignty have been imprecise. In 1944, a British diplomatic commission to resolve the issue wrung his hands in despair and commented: "It is a phenomenon of procrastination unparalleled in the chronicles of Oriental diplomacy."

This century Iraq's claim on the waterway dates from the Constantinople Protocol of 1930 signed by Turkey, Persia, Britain and Russia, which gave Turkey sovereignty over



both banks. After the collapse of the Ottoman empire, the kingdom of Iraq was created by the Treaty of Sèvres in 1920. The Constantinople Treaty gave unopposed navigation rights to all nations, but the Persians were unhappy, especially as ports such as Basra on its eastern bank grew in importance because of oil.

Iraq's sovereignty was confirmed by the Frontier Treaty in 1937, but in 1960 the Shah of Iraq defied it by appointing his own river pilots and refusing to pay Iraqi pilots. A year later Iraq retaliated by closing the Shatt al-Arab and Iran backed off.

The Shah began to supply Iraq's rebellious Kurds with money and arms, and in April 1969 again refused to pay Iraqi navigation tolls, and sent gunboats down the waterway. Iraq, battling its Kurds, was too busy to respond, which encouraged the Shah to abrogate the 1937 treaty.

In 1975, weakened by the Kurdish revolt, Iraq reluctantly signed the Treaty of Algiers on March 6. The agreement was brokered by President Bourguiba of Algeria and signed by the Shah and Saddam Hussein, then Iraq's foreign minister.

The boundary was drawn down the centre of the Shatt al-Arab's deep-water channel, giving Iran for the first

time a well-defined navigation rights.

In return, Iran agreed to end its support of the Kurds. The treaty also gave Iraq three small pockets of land along the frontier to the north. The treaty would be considered invalid if any of its clauses were not observed.

In January 1979 the Shah was toppled, and six months later Saddam Hussein became Iraq's new leader. The new Iranian regime said the Algiers Treaty was not binding as it had been signed by the Shah. President Saddam was no keener on what he had always considered a humiliating treaty and, citing Iran's failure to relinquish the pockets of land, he tore it up.

The Shatt al-Arab was always a side issue but its symbolic importance was immense. President Saddam used it as an excuse to invade Iran when he believed it was weakened by internal upheaval. Since then Iran has insisted the Treaty of Algiers was still valid. President Saddam insisted it was null and void – until yesterday.

He has a degree in English literature and keeps abreast of Western politics. Since joining General Saddam's followers in the Baath party after the short-lived Baathist military coup of 1963, he would seem to have become a party apparatchik, obeying all his orders without questioning their wisdom or humanity.

American and British intelligence efforts are concentrating on spotting any signs of these seven divisions changing from a "consolidating position to an imminent assault posture". This would include any evidence of artil-

ery and aircraft movements.

The Republican Guards are

expected to be the units used

for an attack on Saudi Arabia.

If President Saddam was

able to transfer 20 of the 24

divisions from the north down

to southern Iraq, he would

have 51 divisions, a minimum of 612,000 men in Kuwait and across the border in Iraq. A further 11 divisions are also now being reformed to add another 132,000 to the pool of troops available for back-up.

To build up sufficient forces

for an offensive and to sustain

operations over an extended

period, the wooing of Tehran

has to be seen as a vital part of

President Saddam's political

manoeuvring. For although

Tehran has denounced Iraq's

annexation of Kuwait it has

opposed the presence of for-

igns military forces in Saudi

Arabia.

But the move could have

serious military implications

for Saudi Arabia and the

other Gulf states.

It is in a position to break

out from its isolation and join

international efforts to deal

with his old enemy, or to

accept President Saddam's

diplomatic handshake and

work with him in the task of

turning the Gulf into an

Islamic sea.

Tehran may be equivocal

about sanctions," said Sir

John Moberly a former Brit-

ish ambassador to Baghdad.

"It needs the financial and

technological support of the

West if it is to carry out a

successful reconstruction."

If the rapprochement be-

tween the Baghdad and Teheran

governments were sufficient

to enable Iraq to circumvent the international sanctions it would blow a hole in the international action.

But analysts doubted yes-

terday that Teheran would take

such action.

"Any evidence that Iran

was facilitating sanctions

breaking would be a grave

development and would be

regarded very seriously by the

United States and would dou-

ble the danger," said Brian

Pridham, director of the

Centre for Arab Gulf Studies

at Exeter University.

An indication of how deli-

cately President Saddam ap-

pears to have been planning

his strategy is the fact that he

has placed in the past on Iraq's

control of the Shatt al-Arab

waterway, he could still face

the same difficulties over his

sudden about-face.

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# Unfair conditions blamed for jeopardising wind power projects

By NICK NUTTALL

TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S wind energy programme is in danger of collapse because the electricity industry and the government are imposing surprise conditions that are turning marginally profitable schemes into high-risk ventures, it was claimed yesterday.

Wind power experts said that contracts between area electricity boards and groups seeking to generate clean electricity from the wind have been drafted with a clause inserted at the last minute. This forces wind farm operators to build and operate schemes even

when delays in planning permission make the projects unprofitable.

Encouraged by the Department of Energy, the wind power groups applied last year for the first phase of contracts within the government's electricity privatisation package, due to come into effect in the autumn. The contracts should have been signed and returned by the beginning of this month, but most groups have either failed to return them or sent them back unsigned.

Construction at several sites along the west coast of Britain had been expected to start this year, but only two projects in Cornwall

are now expected to now go ahead, according to industry experts.

Dr Peter Musgrave, of the Wind Energy Group, a consortium of British Aerospace and Taylor Woodrow which had applied for a contract, said the new terms have made a mockery of the government's plans to encourage the generation of alternative energy. He said the contracts, which have been drafted in consultation with energy department officials and the Office of Electricity Regulation, had turned wind power into a lottery. The group's parent companies were adamant that it made little commercial sense.

Dr Musgrave said the new conditions were just the latest delays and disincentives for wind power, identified by energy department experts as one of the most promising sources of clean electricity. The groups running wind farms had expected to be given 15 to 20-year contracts with area electricity boards, but they were subjected to planning delays of 12 months or more.

Dr Musgrave said, however, that if the delays were less than 12 months, the groups were obliged to go ahead. "This is even though the loss of revenue means the return will only be 1 or 2 per cent... less than you get by putting your money in a building society. This superfluous clause is certainly preventing us from going

commercially unattractive but marginally economic.

Under the new clause, the groups which signed contracts but were refused planning permission could withdraw without financial penalties, as could groups that were subjected to planning delays of 12 months or more.

Dr Musgrave said, however, that if the delays were less than 12 months, the groups were obliged to go ahead. "This is even though the loss of revenue means the return will only be 1 or 2 per cent... less than you get by putting your money in a building society. This superfluous clause is certainly preventing us from going

ahead. Our parent companies regard it as unacceptable. We are bitterly disappointed," he said.

The Wind Energy Group had planned to build 17 wind farms generating 120 megawatts of electricity. The application was reduced to three proposals, which have now been shelved following the insertion of the contract clause, after the energy department insisted that only proposals with wind speed measurements would be considered.

The energy department is due to unveil new proposals for wind power next year, but many groups have become sceptical that a serious industry would ever

emerge. "They have been progressively making rules as they go along to exclude more and more wind schemes," Dr Musgrave said.

The schemes agreeing to the new terms are a three-megawatt, 10-turbine project at Delabole, Cornwall, and a six megawatt, 15-turbine scheme at Goonhilly, Cornwall. Peter Bailey, who is behind the Goonhilly project, said most councils could be slow to grant permission as they were unfamiliar with wind schemes and because the farms often needed to be in or near remote areas of outstanding natural beauty to make the most of the wind.

## Bart's turns away heart attack cases in cash cuts

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING London teaching hospital that has closed more than half of its beds is now turning away heart attack victims because of financial cutbacks, consultants claimed yesterday.

St Bartholomew's Hospital, central London, has suspended all cardiology and cardiothoracic operations, except emergencies, for a month because the consultants have overspent their budget by treating too many patients. The hospital is also refusing referrals from other hospitals.

The hospital has closed 200 of its 368 beds to save £4.5 million, so that it can balance its books next year, and has been on red alert, accepting very urgent or emergency admissions only, in most of the hospital since June.

In the cardiac department only seven of the 36 beds are open. The operating theatre is closed and consultants are being paid to staff virtually empty wards. Anthony Nathan, a consultant cardiologist, said: "Last week I had to turn away a patient with a multiple cardiac arrest who

was referred to me by a consultant at another hospital. We are not allowed to treat any of the 700 patients who are now waiting for cardiology operations and have stopped all out-patient clinics. Waiting lists will inevitably rise."

Gareth Rees, a cardiothoracic surgeon, said that patients with coronary artery disease and serious heart defects, who were having to wait an extra month or more for treatment, were much more likely to become emergency cases. "It is difficult to predict what will happen to people with heart disease on waiting lists. Maybe one or two of them will die, particularly those who are not articulate enough to work the system," he said.

David Skinner, an accident and emergency consultant, said that many consultants were unofficially advising their patients to turn up at casualty so that they would be admitted. "The situation is unacceptable, and it is just as bad in general surgery because of pressure on beds," Mr Skinner said. There has been a 38 per cent reduction in general surgery over the past 12 months because of the bed closures, he said.

Ken Grant, general manager of City and Hackney health authority, which covers St Bartholomew's, said that the bed closures had taken place over the last few years and some of the workload had been transferred to day surgery. A total of 75 beds closed last October to save money and a further 25 shut in June.

He said the £4.5 million deficit was due to unexpected demands, such as storm damage and government underfunding of inflation and pay awards. "In the past we allowed departments to slightly overspend if it came to the crunch. Now department heads are looking five-day wards and going home with the key to ensure the beds are not used," he said.

"The only way we can keep to our budget is to cut our workload. There is no flexibility left. The government has moved too much money out of London before allowing the principles of the white paper, where money follows the patient, to start working."

## NSPCC on how to avoid violence

GUIDANCE to help reduce the risk of violence against social workers and other professionals violence was published by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children yesterday (Jill Sherman writes). The booklet tells professionals conducting home visits, case conferences, access visits and office interviews how to react both before, during and after violence.

"The last few years have shown a dramatic escalation in cases of violence against, and in some cases murder of, social workers and other professionals simply carrying out their job," it says. "There is no doubt that the situation has changed dramatically for the worse in the past 20 years. The dedication of staff must not be exploited and no one should risk their life because of a misplaced expectation of their duty."

Restraining violence in individuals should be a last resort if the professional has been unable to defuse a potentially violent situation by listening or distracting the person or escaping, the booklet says.

"This option should only be given serious consideration if you feel you have the strength to pin the arms of the assailant in a bear hug and to hold them there until their anger subsides. If they are bigger than you or look stronger try something else." An alternative option is to "bash and dash". This could involve kicking the shin bone, scraping one's foot down the shin to the foot, kicking the knee, elbowing the solar plexus, grabbing the assailant's cheeks, nose or ears and giving a good twist, or bending their fingers back.

"The kick to the groin of a male assailant is not recommended as this would require loosing clothing, a high kick and lightning speed to avoid your ankle being grabbed." The bashes are intended to give a short, sharp shock to the assailant allowing the victim time to get out.

The booklet also advises on reducing stress levels, which can affect how well someone copes with potential violence, and suggests a range of relaxation techniques using counselling and psychotherapy.

*Violence — Staff Handbook*, 67 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8RS: £5.95 plus £1 p&p, from September 13)



Gemma Lawrence, the seven-year-old who was held captive for 56 hours after being abducted from the family caravan at Bridport, Dorset, happily reunited with her parents, Nicholas and Gaynor, yesterday

## Prison officers ban new inmates at Leeds

PRISON officers yesterday stepped up industrial action at Armley jail in Leeds, Britain's most overcrowded jail, with a blanket ban on admissions of new inmates.

The Prison Officers' Association pledged to maintain the boycott until the prison population was reduced from 1,200 to 900, which is expected to take two weeks. The jail was built for 627 inmates. Brian Nickson, the assistant governor, said the action had so far had little effect.

This week, Simon Weller, a 17-year-old remand prisoner, died after apparently hanging himself from his cell bars at the prison. His death follows five suicides by teenage remand prisoners in two years.

The association, prison reform groups and MPs have called for the young offenders' wing to be closed because, they say, it is unsuitable. They are concerned that under-staffing and overcrowding could lead to more deaths or Strangeways-style rioting.

The prison's 400 officers voted overwhelmingly not to accept new prisoners from courts and police.

Dave Sayer, the prison officers' Leeds branch chairman, said: "We will continue to service the Crown Courts and take anyone back that the jail has sent out. But anyone remanded for the first time or remanded again from a police station through magistrates will not be accepted.

"I regret any inconvenience this causes to police. However, we have reached a stage where safety of the staff at the prison is paramount."

## Democrats aim to promote new image

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

LIBERAL Democrats yesterday launched an agenda for their most "outward looking" annual party conference ever.

The Conservative majority on the committee, chaired by Ron Lightfoot, the Labour MP, has blocked an earlier decision to recall officials of the party because of their failure to disclose information about the accuracy of their files and their clients as promised at a public hearing in June.

The decision to hear evidence from one of the league's biggest clients was taken because the committee's enquiry on employment practices failed to get assurances from the league about the accuracy and use made of "blacklists" of individuals involved in left-wing union and political activities.

Employment ministers have refused repeated demands by MPs and peers to amend the latest employment bill, which is due to become law in October, to protect job

candidates against being unfairly blacklisted by the league and similar vetting agencies. Because the league's files are not computerised, they are outside the Data Protection Act.

The Conservative majority on the committee, chaired by Ron Lightfoot, the Labour MP, has blocked an earlier decision to recall officials of the party because of their failure to disclose information about the accuracy of their files and their clients as promised at a public hearing in June.

A committee source confirmed yesterday that the league had still not delivered all the information demanded by the MPs.

## Boy missing on canal trip

Concern was growing yesterday for a boy aged six who is missing from a family boating holiday in north Yorkshire. It is feared that Daniel Harrison has fallen into the canal or been abducted.

Hundreds of police officers, boats and residents of the market town of Skipton searched through the night after Daniel, whose family lives in Newcastle upon Tyne, disappeared from the canal side.

## Dog damages

Baron Heinrich von Thyssen and his wife Carmen have been ordered by a Spanish court to pay £50,000 compensation to a British woman after an incident two years ago. The Von Thyssen's dog, an agham-Setter crossbreed, attacked Jacqueline Alexander's small dog and knocked her over, fracturing her hip, when she tried to protect it at the resort of San Felio on the Costa Brava.

"We have come through the worst now," Mr Kennedy said. "Internally the party is feeling on much firmer ground and we want emphatically to speak out more to the general public." The most recent surveys have put support back into double figures for the Liberal Democrats, at between 10 and 12 per cent.

The conference will also be used to promote the party's new image, with a logo depicting a bird of liberty to replace the gold diamond. Mr Kennedy said: "Our success in the May local elections and our recent rise in the opinion polls over the past year has clearly demonstrated the need for an alternative to Neil Kinnock and Margaret Thatcher."

## Water warning

Nearly 50,000 people in Bradford, West Yorkshire, were advised to boil their drinking water yesterday, after routine sampling showed that supplies from the Brayside reservoir at Shelf were contaminated by bacteria. Radio and television warnings were broadcast and letters were sent to 12,000 homes.

Dan Air judged best high-flying tea maker

By DANIEL TREISMAN

A BRITISH airline yesterday carried off the trophy for brewing the best in-flight cup of tea.

Dan Air won the prize, awarded by the Tea Council for its undisclosed blend of Indian teas on its Inverness to Heathrow service.

A panel of volunteer judges, including *The Times* air correspondent, have down more than 293,000 miles since January in search of the perfect cup of tea.

More than 30 airlines were judged on the quality of their tea, the crockery used, provision of fresh milk and presentation by the cabin crew. British Airways, American Airlines, and Austrian

Airlines were also shortlisted. "We serve about six million cups of tea a year," Michael Witten, catering manager of Dan Air, said. "We try to use fresh milk whenever possible and I feel that makes the difference."

Routes surveyed by the globe-circling judges included those in North America, India, Europe, the Middle East and Britain.

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## The Guinness trial

## Jury told to reject view that case lacks losers

By PAUL WILKINSON

JURORS in the Guinness trial were urged yesterday to dismiss from their minds any suggestion that the affair was a victimless crime and not to wonder why they should be concerned if "fat cats" in the City had been affected.

Mr Justice Henry told the jury of seven men and four women, as he began his summing up on the 103rd day of the trial at Southwark Crown Court, that the case was "not a sledgehammer to crack a nut".

He told jurors that defence suggestions that the whole affair did not matter because there were no losers was not right, but nor should they heed prosecution calls for their verdicts to be a lesson to powerful City men that their behaviour could not be tolerated.

The judge said: "Your verdicts should be according to the evidence, and not according to the prejudices that we can all enjoy when we are not judging others."

"You can, in your non-judicial role, have the sort of secret pleasure that most of us get from seeing a Rolls-Royce wheelclamped, but when you are judging others you put all prejudice, all political views, all the envy and thought of teaching anyone a lesson, on one side to ensure they get a fair trial."

"You will give these defendants the same quality of fairness as that you would give to a single parent on her uppers charged with a social security fraud."

Ernest Saunders, the former chairman of Guinness, and three business figures have denied involvement in an alleged share support operation intended to secure Guinness's successful £2.7 billion takeover of the Distillers drinks group in 1986.

Mr Saunders; Gerald Ronson, head of Britain's second-largest private company, Heron International; Anthony Parncutt, a stockbroker; and Sir Jack Lyons, the financier, have denied a total of 22 counts alleging theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act during the takeover battle with Argyl, the supermarket chain, for control of Distillers.

The judge said that Mr Saunders' counsel, Richard Ferguson, QC, had suggested that there would be no losers, but was that correct?

The £25 million paid in success fees and indemnities for people to buy Guinness shares and keep them price high in order to win the bid had to come from somewhere. "If it was not in one person's pocket then it must be in another's," the judge said. "If he had not obtained that money by keeping to the law, then someone else was the loser."

In fact there were four groups of losers if the Crown's case was right, the judge said. Two groups were Guinness shareholders, whose money was paid out unnecessarily in allegedly illegal fees, and Distillers shareholders, who were deprived of an informed choice and might have had a better deal if Argyl had won.

The other two groups were people who bought Guinness shares not knowing that the price was artificially supported, or that a privileged few were getting indemnities, and Argyl shareholders, deprived of victory and the subsequent benefits to their company.

Mr Justice Henry said that the jury might ask: "Why should we not just leave it to the fat cats in the City and the law of the jungle?" The answer was, he said, that there were still many small shareholders, either through unit trusts or direct holdings. They were entitled to the law's protection from a rigged market.

In addition, everyone's pension and life assurance depended on the market's integ-

rity. Furthermore, business relied on the market as a source of funds. "If the market is to be a casino where it is rigged for a few rich and privileged players, then the public will not invest in business," the judge said. Companies would have to use more expensive sources of funds.

The judge said that the jury should remember that the huge sums involved were not "some special Monopoly money made to be played with in the City".

He said: "We are talking about real money, made by someone else before it ended where it did. We are talking about money we all earn and spend, the pound that buys a two-zone ticket on the Underground and, until recently, bought a pint of beer."

Mr Justice Henry said that the bid occurred when Guinness was seeking to establish itself as a world leader in its sphere. He told the jury: "One question you could ask yourselves is: 'At that time, was there an ethos of all's fair in takeovers and war?'"

He said that the evidence had indicated that Mr Saunders was not driven by a sense of personal aggrandisement, but was determined to advance Guinness's fortunes.

If the jury decided that indemnities had been paid, then, in law, there was no question that offence had been committed.

The judge warned the jurors that his summing up would necessarily have to reduce 75 days of evidence to 14 days of speeches by counsel to just a few days from him. As a result, there was a risk that bias might creep in unintentionally, but if there were a point that he had not brought out that they considered relevant, they should not hesitate to include it in their deliberations.

They should also not allow themselves to be prejudiced by any personal likes or dislikes of the witnesses they had seen. In particular, they should bear in mind the strain that Mr Saunders was under as a defendant giving evidence on his own behalf.

Experts like Raymond Keene, *The Times* chess correspondent, salute this

In their weighing of the evidence, the jurors should also consider the suggestion that the people involved would have had too much to lose by taking the particular course of action that they were advised to have taken.

The judge said that an essential issue was Mr Saunders' knowledge of invoices covering payment of success fees and indemnities. The main evidence on the subject came from Guinness's former finance director, Olivier Roux, who claimed that Mr Saunders was aware of them. Mr Saunders had denied all knowledge.

Mr Roux had said that he was aware of the support scheme, but did not think it illegal. If the jury believed that Mr Roux had been an accomplice, they would have to consider whether he had lied about others to save his own skin.

The judge continues his summing up today.



Mr Justice Henry: case concerns the real world

## Pollution move on crematoria emissions

By NICK NUTTALL  
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

TIGHTER pollution control regulations may be needed for crematoria after studies by a British scientist have shown that cremated teeth may carry an environmental risk.

Dr Alan Mills, of Leicester University, says that during cremation, dental fillings could release dangerous levels of a highly toxic vapour. The fillings contain mercury alloy, harmless in teeth but, as a vapour, hazardous to the human nervous system even at very low levels.

Friends of the Earth yesterday called for further studies to assess the risk. Fiona Wein, air pollution campaigner with the group, suggested that undertakers should remove fillings before cremation, or install filters in crematoria chimneys.

The environmental protection act, expected in the autumn, will require crematoria to monitor some emission levels. The health department denied there was a risk to people, as temperatures reached in crematoria were unlikely to vapourise mercury.

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## Campaign to reduce congestion in parks

By MICHAEL McCARTHY  
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A CAMPAIGN to ease congestion and tighten planning laws in national parks will be launched during the August bank holiday when, if the weather is fine, pressure on the parks will be at its most intense.

The campaign, which is being co-ordinated by the Council for National Parks, is calling for a new act of Parliament to protect the parks. A review panel appointed by the Countryside Commission is considering the future of the parks and is due to publish its report in December.

Chris Bonington, the mountaineer and writer, will make a radio appeal for funds on August 26. The Council for National Parks represents more than 40 voluntary groups with an interest in the parks, including the National Trust, the Council for the Protection of Rural England, and the Youth Hostel Association.

The council has presented its own agenda for the parks to the review panel and Amanda Nobbs, its secretary, said yesterday that restriction of vehicles was top priority. The campaign also wants the creation of national parks for Scotland and four new parks for England and Wales.

"We want no more traffic jams in national parks," Miss Nobbs said. Traffic came to a complete standstill during the 1988 August bank holiday. The council has dismissed traffic management schemes or entry fees, which it feels run counter to the spirit of the parks, demanding instead vehicle-free areas with "a long walk in", Miss Nobbs said. "People who want to see and enjoy fragile areas should be prepared to make the effort."

The campaign is also calling for planning restrictions to be tightened so that there is a presumption against any development. "We feel the onus should be on the prospective developers to prove that their schemes are in the interests of the parks," Miss Nobbs said.

twitcher speechless. Birders who accidentally stumble on the sighting of a riverbank rarity are said to have "jammed in on a big twitch".

"It's a curious language, probably designed to keep talk to a minimum to more time can be spent watching," one birder said of his fellow twitchers.

Dedicated birders may be in Fair Isle one day and Lundy the next, chartering aircraft and boats when they hear a target bird has put in an appearance. A twitcher that has been eluding him is said to have "unlocked".

"Some quarters think

twitchers are a bit mad orakin to train spotters but that is unfair," the birder said. "They help bring an almost diagnostic focus to ornithology which has been a benefit." Their sightings may give the first hint of significant changes in migration patterns or colonisation or of threat to a particular species.

But for the twitchers yesterday nothing stirred apart from a little stir, a couple of redshank, Canada geese waddling on a mudflat and a greater striped traffic cone drifting singhally towards the Manchester ship canal. There was no twitch of a dowitcher. The birders had "dipped".

## Hitch for dipped twitchers

By RONALD FAUX

THERE is much twitching on the river Weaver in Cheshire, where bird enthusiasts have spotted a solitary long-billed dowitcher blown far off course across the Atlantic.

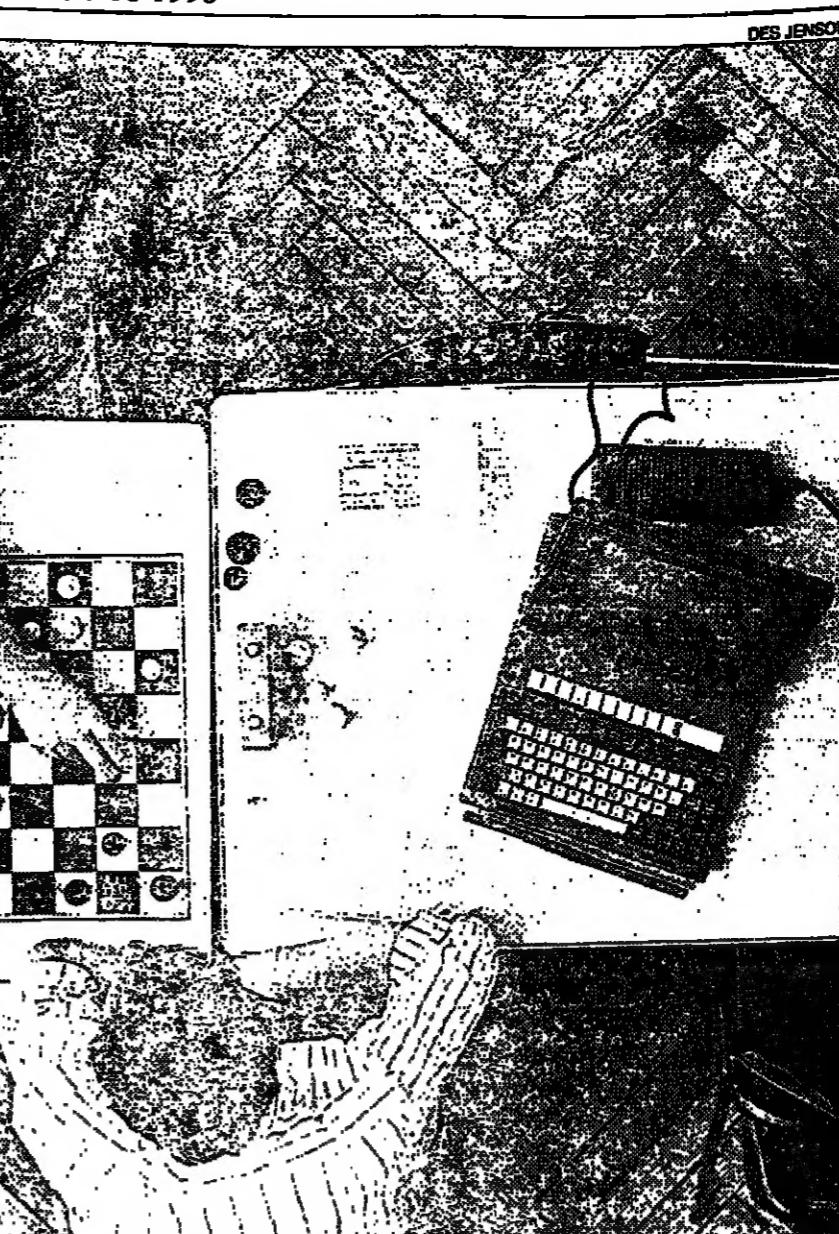
The twitchers, bird watchers who respond immediately to the sighting of a species they have not ticked off their list, have flocked to the area with their binoculars and telephoto lenses to spot the small russet-coloured riverbank bird with bright plumage and a feeding style likened to a sewing machine needle.

The "birders" rank the dowitcher as a "biggie", not quite a "cracker" or a sighting so spectacular it renders the

twitcher speechless. Birders who accidentally stumble on the sighting of a riverbank rarity are said to have "jammed in on a big twitch".

"It's a curious language, probably designed to keep talk to a minimum to more time can be spent watching," one birder said of his fellow twitchers.

Dedicated birders may be in



Your move: Chris Whittington, from Oxford Softworks, top, pits his program against that of Reinhold Gellner at the Computer Olympiad

## Game-playing computer programs lock horns

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE world's best game-playing computer programs yesterday logged on and locked horns at Queen Mary College in London. Programmers from all over the world have come to test their skill against one another in 14 different games at the second Computer Olympiad.

Chess and draughts were once the only games computers could play, but yesterday's competitors used programs that can play bridge, backgammon, Scrabble, Chinese chess and Go, as well as less familiar games such as Othello and Avari.

One game, Connect 4, which involves dropping coloured discs into a frame and attempting to create a line of four, has already been conquered by the computer. At last year's Olympiad Japp van den Herik, from the University of Limburg in The Netherlands, announced that he and a collaborator, Victor Allis, had written a Connect 4 program that would invariably win, as long as it made the first move.

Experts like Raymond Keene, *The Times* chess correspondent, salute this

achievement as the first non-trivial game to have been completely solved by computers. Noughts-and-crosses was mastered years ago, of course, but even humans have devised unbeatable strategies for that simple game.

The organiser of the Computer Olympiad is David Levy, a British chess-player and computer programmer, who thought it would be useful for people interested in a variety of games to meet, compete, exchange ideas and enjoy themselves. Certainly the atmosphere in the Octagon, Queen Mary College's handsome former library, has more in common with the social chaffing of a scientific gathering than the intense concentration of a chess championship. The competitors pay their own way, and entry fees cover the costs of the event, although Mr Levy would like a commercial sponsor.

In one corner there was a

good-tempered clash of ideologies as two Chinese programmers squared up to match their programs in Chinese chess, a game similar to the Western version, but played on a board nine squares by ten. A program written by Professor Shupin Chin Hsu, from the National University in Taiwan, was mastered years ago, of course, but even humans have devised unbeatable strategies for that simple game.

In April this year, the former world champion at chess, Anatoly Karpov, was competing against one written by Professor Huang Shao Long, of the Chinese Chess Centre at Nankai University in Tianjin on mainland China, and brought to London by one of his students, Wang Qingshui. They had never met before.

Near by Paul Lu, of the University of Alberta in Edmonton, was waiting to unleash the superstar of draughts programs, Chinook, on all-comers. Last week Chinook went unbeaten through the Mississippi open draughts championship, and this week it is competing in the US open. In draughts — or check-

ers, as it is called in the USA — the time is approaching when computer programs will be able to beat all human competitors. Ultimately, Raymond Keene believes computers may beat humans in the majority of thinking games.

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Next Sunday a Swiss programmer, Ralph Gasser, will arrive with a program that can play Nine Men's Morris, an old English game. Mr Gasser has no idea how good his program is, as he has matched it against a human competitor, the British champion at the game, Michael Sunley.

David Levy sees no danger of the computer destroying the games it now plays so well. "It will enhance the games, create interest in them and maybe teach humans to play them better," he said. "After all, world champions haven't any one to teach them how to get better."

The team from the University of Limburg who conquered Connect 4 were back,

threatening to do the same to Avari, a game played throughout Africa. Although Avari has many fewer possible moves than Connect 4, it is a game of bewildering reversals of fortune that are hard to program.

The programmers of Scrabble have created programs, armed with very large dictionaries, which can play that most frustrating of games brilliantly. Bridge, by contrast, is at a relatively primitive stage, with programs that sometimes go on wild bidding sprees.

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Science, page 14

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## MPs eat their way to a £2m surplus

By NICHOLAS WOOD  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE refreshment department at the House of Commons is sitting on a cash mountain of more than £2 million and has few firm plans to dispose of the money, according to a report published yesterday.

The surplus, boosted by profits of £289,000 last year, has accumulated over the past 10 years and is apparently becoming something of a headache to MPs charged with supervising an organisation that serves 300,000 meals a year and operates 20 outlets.

The rapidly growing surplus is highlighted by John Bourn, the comptroller and auditor general, in a report to MPs from Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker. The implication is that it should be reduced. The disclosure stunned Tory backbenchers, who have been brought up on a folk memory of catering losses that reached £600,000 in 1976 and led to the operation being put on a new footing in 1979.

They combined suggestions for how the money might be spent, including the idea of a swimming pool, with tributes to Sir Charles Irving, chairman of the catering subcommittee, for creating such a healthy balance sheet.

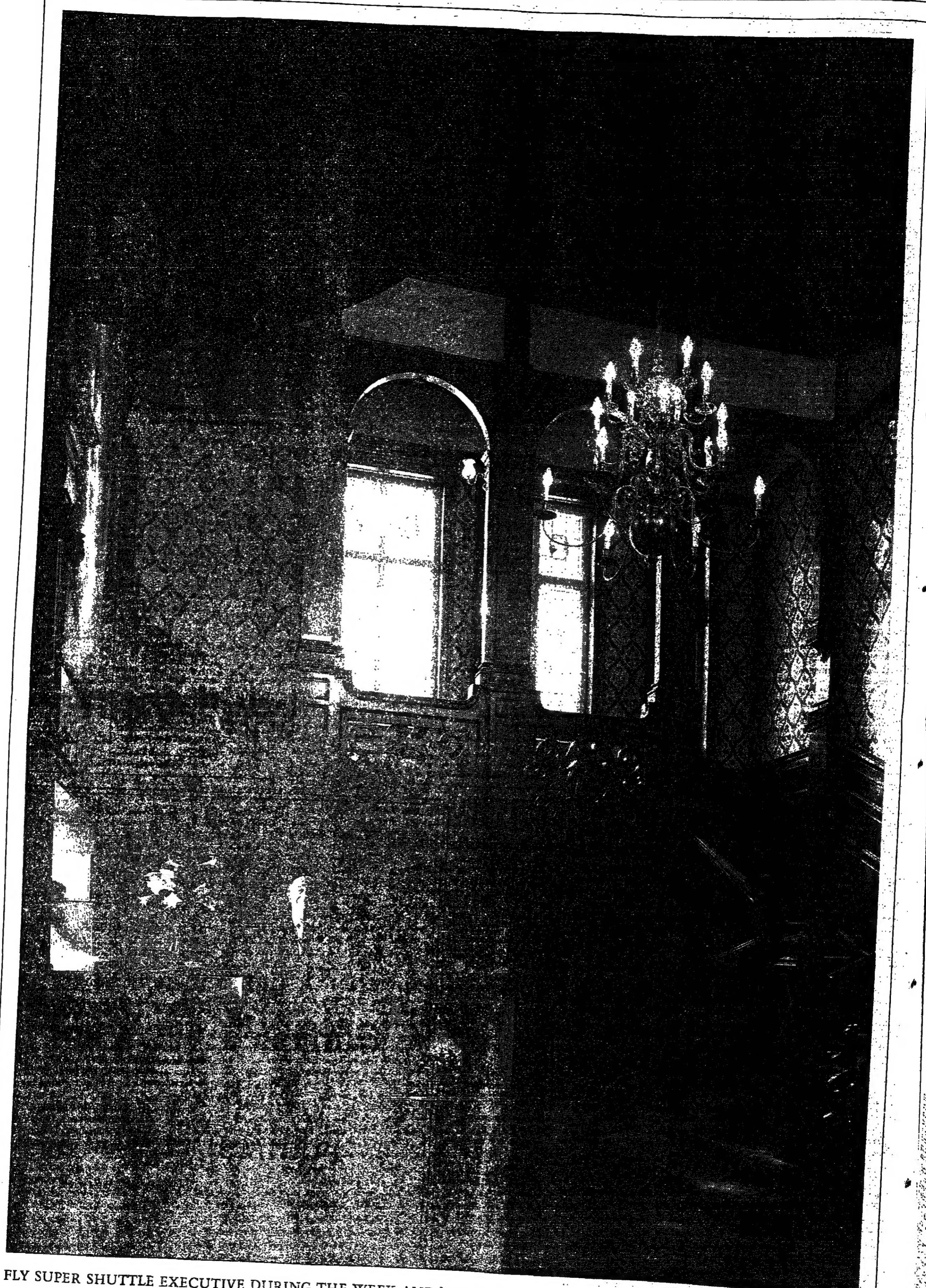
Mr Bourn, who is responsible for checking public spending, acknowledges that the surplus has been used to defray the costs of capital works at the Commons. For instance, £120,000 was spent on the new terrace pavilion and £320,000 on improvements to the members' tea room and the press cafeteria.

However, no new works were undertaken last year, he says.

Mr Bourn suggests that the opening of the first phase of the new parliamentary building next year should be accompanied by a review of catering arrangements, the aim being to find an "appropriate way" of reducing the surplus.

However, sources close to the catering sub-committee pointed out that moves were afoot to overhaul the management of the refreshment department, which employs more than 260 permanent staff, and rethink its financial future. Independent management consultants are conducting the review.

House of Commons Commission: House of Commons Refreshment Department Account 1989-90 (Stationery Office; £3.10)



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# A-level pass rate confounds fear of drop in standards

By DAVID TYLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE A-level results for more than 200,000 sixth-formers that will arrive at schools today are slightly better than last year, figures from the eight exam boards show.

Earlier this week it had been suggested that results could be worse than in previous years because the students were the first to take A-levels since the GCSE replaced O-levels two years ago.

Critics had said that the GCSE did not stretch bright pupils and that it failed to prepare them for the more academically rigorous A-levels, particularly in subjects such as mathematics, science and modern languages.

Figures released this morning by the exam boards, however, show that figures in these subjects are unchanged or slightly improved. The total entries have risen by more than 15,000 to 657,421.

Passes in grades A to C, essential for most university entries, are up by 0.7 per cent across all subjects. Passes in grades A to E, sufficient to continue higher education, are up 1 per cent to 77 per cent. Passes at A grade have risen by 0.2 per cent.

The biggest increases in the pass rate are in music, up 5.1 per cent, and general studies, up 4.5 per cent. There has been no substantial decline in pass rates in any subject.

Howard King, secretary of the Oxford and Cambridge board and spokesman for the examining boards, said: "It is good news for children. We do

not have a disastrous fall in standards."

The results were also welcomed by Michael Fallon, the junior education minister.

"These are the first A-level candidates who sat the first full GCSE exams. It is, therefore, all the more encouraging for the future of both A-levels and the GCSE to see results of this kind," he said.

"I am delighted that we have seen an increase in the A-level pass rate, to 77 per cent, particularly in a year which has seen an increase in the numbers taking A-levels, he added."

Derek Fatchett, a Labour front-bench education spokesman, said that the results had proved right-wing critics of the GCSE wrong. He added that teachers and industrialists were concerned about the 6.9 per cent decline in pupils studying mathematics and the 5.1 per cent fall in students taking physics.

More pupils are studying modern languages, with the number of students taking French up by 20.7 per cent, German by 21.5 per cent and Spanish by 12.3 per cent. The number of pupils taking business studies is also up 14.5 per cent, technology is up 11.5 per cent and geography has risen by 8.6 per cent. Entries for classics have dropped by 11.8 per cent, the biggest decline.

A spokesman for the Confederation of British Industry said that a broader A-level system should be introduced to allow students to

study languages and sciences.

"The decline in the number of applicants for maths and physics is disappointing from industry's point of view – it could exacerbate the skills shortage in the long run."

Stuart Sexton, director of the Independent Primary and Secondary Education Trust, said that the figures did not indicate any significant change from last year, but that this in itself did not mean much.

"The whole system of marking is subjective and there is no year-by-year norm. It is perfectly possible for the boards to decide that a certain percentage of candidates will achieve A grades and then mark accordingly. There are people who believe that A-levels are too hard or too different for pupils who have taken GCSEs, but this would not show up in these figures if the exam boards stick to usual pass rates," Mr Sexton said.

George Turnbull, of the Associated Examining Board, said, however: "It is absolute nonsense to suggest that we mark to achieve a certain pass rate. We put a tremendous amount of time and effort to ensure that the standards to achieve each grade are the same from year to year."

In the second year of the A-level, overall pass rates have risen by 2.7 per cent to 64.2 per cent. The examination, roughly equivalent to half an A-level, was introduced to broaden sixth-form studies.

Mr Fallon said that the A-level pass rate was showing signs of improvement and that he expected it to rise even further when more schools caught the examination.

● Two charitable trusts have stepped in to prevent Dartington College of Arts, near Totnes, Devon, from becoming the first institution to go bankrupt since polytechnics and colleges were made independent of local education authorities last year (John O'Leary writes).

A rescue package for the college was announced yesterday involving an association with Polytechnic South West, in Plymouth. The Dartington Hall Trust and another, which has insisted on anonymity, are writing off £400,000 debts while the polytechnic takes over management functions and conducts an academic review.

● Students will not receive advice from their national union on whether to take advantage of the government's loan scheme, which begins next month.

Militants' demands for a boycott of the scheme and a campaign of sit-ins to force its withdrawal were rejected by the executive of the National Union of Students at a meeting in Birmingham yesterday. But the executive drew back from plans to organise a mass take-up of loans and decided to leave the decision to individuals.

Although local student unions will be supplied with information on the procedure for applying for a loan, the NUS will only encourage its 1.2 million members to apply for the access funds that form part of the scheme.



Closed: locked doors at the Lowndes Queensway store at Plough Lane, Wimbledon, yesterday after the furniture chain went into receivership

## No soft cushion for falling Queensway

By ANGELA MACKAY

RETAILING can be a soap opera, with fortunes made and lost, and reputations tarnished. So it is with Lowndes Queensway.

Sir Philip Harris, aged 48, was Hambro Businessman of the Year in 1983 and was knighted in 1985, was considered a loser when he sold out two years ago, but yesterday, after receivers were appointed to the mostly out-of-town carpet and furniture retailer, he was hailed as a shrewd, perceptive fellow who dealt at precisely the right time.

While his former empire lay moulderling in the hands of liquidators from Ernst & Young, the accountancy practice, Sir Philip, as he is affectionately known, was basking in the brilliant sunshine off the Côte d'Azur on his 98 ft yacht, pondering the form of the racehorses in his stable. He relinquished control of the family business, Harris Queensway, to Jimmy Gulliver in June 1988 for £450 million, pocketing £69 million.

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tabled under the aegis of Norman Ireland, former chairman of Bowater, but it was too late.

The deal was the worst of Mr Gulliver's career and overshadowed his 23 years as a successful food retailer, firstly with Fins Farn and then as head of Argyll.

Mr Ireland and his backer, the merchant bank Charterhouse, tried to engineer a recovery, but in May disclosed a crippling net loss of £80 million for 1989 and forecast a similar disaster this year.

Lowndes first tried to go up-market under Sir Phil, but ill-considered changes in merchandise and runaway purchasing stymied the move.

At one stage, the company had 27,000 barbecue grills in stock but sold an average of only seven forks a week.

Mr Gulliver also tried to dress mutton as lamb. Gone were the swirling patterned carpets and the lurid green shopfronts, but the quality of stock was just not up to it, and the days of shopping in giant mazes looked finished.

Furniture sales dropped 22 per cent, year on year, while carpet sales slid 17 per cent. The group's main customer base, young families with mortgages, were hit by rising interest rates, and smartening the sitting room went to the bottom of their priorities.

The group sold Hamleys, the toy store in Regent Street, Harveys, the soft furnishings

chain, and Poundstretcher, the variety supermarket chain, but debt still mounted. Idiosyncratic methods of cost-cutting, such as taking out every second light bulb in the big stores, were measures of a desperate management.

Yesterday, Ernst & Young was studying the remains of Lowndes Queensway. The auditors said that the group

had debts of £300 million and would show a loss of "several million pounds" this year. They declared all 270 stores closed for stocktaking and said that 4,000 jobs were at risk. The group's shares were suspended yesterday at 1p, valuing the group at £12 million.

This year, the City has

had a 12-month struggle. Lowndes Queensway's attempt to stay afloat turned into a protracted, painful death. The knock-on effects are worrying. Furniture suppliers are owed at least £30 million, and, because they rank after the banks, several risk bankruptcy unless Ernst & Young can rapidly devise a scheme of arrangement.

## Consumer juggernaut falters as doors close on summer specials

By JOHN YOUNG

A SMALL, handwritten note was yesterday stuck to the door of the Queensway furniture store by the side of the A4 at Brentford, west London.

"Sorry we are closed today due to stocktaking," it said.

Two elderly ladies turned away looking puzzled, unaware that the company that owned the chain of stores had that morning crashed into the arms of the receivers, a victim of the belief that consumer purchasing power and the credit financing it would go on forever expanding.

Inside, a handful of shirtless staff stood in a small pool of light. When beckoned, one came to the door but declined to open it. A request for more information, shouted through the thick glass, pro-

duced a shake of the head. A few miles away at another store near the Kingston bypass a little more information was forthcoming. A typewritten notice read: "At the request of the directors, our bankers have appointed administrative receivers who are reviewing the future trading of the company. Whilst this review is taking place, stores will be closed for stocktaking."

They were also "urgently reviewing" whether it would be possible to deliver orders to customers who had paid deposits, or whether it would be necessary for them to make an insurance claim. A woman reading the notice said she was expecting delivery of a suite of furniture for which she had paid in full. She appeared

remarkably cheerful. Outside was a signboard advertising a "symphony of kitchens ... over £1,000 of appliances for just £107 ... first come, first served". Posters proclaimed "summer specials", one third off and 10 months' interest-free credit.

Another woman walked up and read the notice. Had she bought anything and not received delivery? No, she worked there. Had she been sent home? No, it was not like that at all. She would be at work again today as usual.

At Wimbeldon was another darkened store. On the door hung a notice: "Queensway gives you a written guarantee of value, quality and service."

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## This week at Dixons

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## 22 soccer fans held in dawn raids

By PETER DAVENPORT

DETECTIVES yesterday arrested 22 people in dawn raids on homes throughout the country as a result of the violent disorder at the Bournemouth-Leeds United game at the end of the football season earlier this year.

Eighteen people were held in Yorkshire by up to 70 officers from Dorset and West Yorkshire, and suspects were also arrested at homes in Milton Keynes, Oxford, St Albans and Barrow-in-Furness.

Eight were charged with a variety of offences, including violent disorder, receiving stolen goods and being present at a football match while the subject of an exclusion order, and will appear before magistrates in Bournemouth on Monday.

Two were released without charge, one remanded on bail pending further enquiries, and 11 are still being questioned.

Yesterday's raids were part of "Operation Boardum", set up after two days of disturbances in which thousands of pounds worth of damage was done to shops and property in Bournemouth, passers-by attacked, and 30 officers injured. Nine hundred officers, including reinforcements from five counties and London, confronted 2,000 marauding fans who launched a concerted attack on police. The operation is continuing.

## Limits on legal aid could cut 'needless' two-lawyer cases

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Consumers' Association and National Consumer Council yesterday called for tougher action by courts to limit the granting of legal aid, in an attempt to make the legal profession end needless double-manning on cases.

David Tench, legal officer of the Consumers' Association, said: "The court authorities will have to be a lot tougher. They will have to say, 'this case only needs one lawyer. You can have two, but we will only pay for one'."

Figures released by the Lord Chancellor's department show that moves to encourage greater use of one lawyer instead of two in suitable cases had failed. A deal was agreed between the department and both branches of the legal profession, barristers and solicitors, almost two years ago. This was designed to encourage more use of Queen's Counsel without a junior barrister to help them, and of barristers without solicitors in attendance.

QC's have acted without juniors in only eight out of more than 1,700 cases in the past 15 months, however, and barristers without solicitors in fewer than 10 per cent of cases identified as suitable. Mr Tench said that the lesson to be learned from the figures was that it took a long time for consumers to feel the benefit of any reforms in the legal profession.

Mr Tench said that greater restrictions on the use of two



Lord Hailsham denies profession overmanned

lawyers by limiting legal aid would probably lead to "howls of protest". He added: "But unless the lawyers are squeezing nothing, nothing is really happening."

Tamara Gorley, senior legal policy officer of the National Consumer Council, said yesterday that the court authorities dealing with legal aid would have to take steps to decide how many legal representatives to pay for and fund them appropriately.

She said: "The courts and legal services bill provides for clients to be able to choose whether to have a solicitor or a barrister to represent them, and we have been calling for clients to be given quotations as to how much such representation will cost them. If they know from the start

that it will be one lawyer or two, a QC or not, they have a much better idea of what the case will cost."

The Law Society is drawing up a new professional practice rule to oblige solicitors to disclose their rates to clients. The draft rule was due to be before the July meeting of the law society council, its governing body, for approval. Drafting difficulties have, however, delayed it until October.

Few barristers publicise their charging rates but, with solicitor-advocates coming into the market, the Bar would be under pressure to disclose such rates, Miss Gorley added.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the former Lord Chancellor, yesterday defended the profession's double-manning. He said that the figures clearly demonstrated that the profession was not overmanned and that two counsel were only used where necessary.

"You simply cannot do a

case which will take more than a day or so without having two hands to the pump, and it shows that the present practice is essential to the proper working of the system," he said.

"The real truth is, you need a solicitor to hold the papers and collect the material, and if the case is going to last, no one person can give it undivided attention."

Leading article, page 11

# Taylor holds whip hand in Liberia peace manoeuvring

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN FREETOWN

HOPES of a breakthrough in the savage conflict in Liberia rose yesterday when General Arnold Quiaoo, the Ghanaian commanding officer of the West African peacekeeping force now assembling here, flew to Banjul, where he is expected to meet Charles Taylor, the leader of Liberia's most powerful rebel faction.

Mr Taylor's opposition to the involvement of Nigerian and Ghanaian units in the peace-keeping force, on the ground that both nations were staunch supporters of besieged President Doe of Liberia, has so far stalled the peacekeeping force from intervening in the civil war. The sudden decision to convene fresh talks with him in the Gambian capital could indicate that a deal more acceptable to his Liberian National Patriotic Front is being worked out to enable the peace force to take up their positions without fear of attack.

## Heston attacks union ban

From SAM KILEY  
IN LOS ANGELES

AMERICAN Equity officers, who will reconsider their ban today on Jonathan Pryce, the British actor, from performing in the Broadway production of *Miss Saigon*, the London hit musical, have incurred the wrath of Charlton Heston, who has resigned his membership and demanded that the union "get out of the casting business".

Heston, who won an Oscar for his 1959 title role in *Ben Hur*, entered the battle for artistic freedom with a withering letter to the union which he accused of being "obscenely racist" for banning Pryce, who is white, from playing the part of a Eurasian pimp when the show transfers to New York.

His attack, a week after the banning prompted Cameron Macintosh, the show's producer, to cancel the Broadway production of *Miss Saigon*, will increase pressure on the union to drop the ban, as many members are uneasy.

Heston, who was an active member of Equity, which represents mostly stage actors, and a former president of the influential Screen Actors' Guild (a post also held by Ronald Reagan) said he was deeply ashamed of the union.

In an article published in the *Los Angeles Times*, which devoted a whole page for and against the ban, he said: "As an actor and director, I've always assumed the idea was to get the best actor for the part, no matter what colour he or she was. I've never spoken to a single working actor who didn't endorse this."

He said that four years ago he had forged an agreement with British Equity to allow an almost all-American cast to come to the West End "because the actors were right for the parts".

A spokeswoman for Mr Macintosh in London said that it was "very nice he feels so strongly about it". But Pryce, who is still performing in *Miss Saigon* in Drury Lane, has said that he thought it was unlikely he could play the part in New York after the controversy.

## Red Cross takes stock

Geneva — The International Committee of the Red Cross said it was reassessing the position of its 19-strong delegation in the Lebanon and would take "whatever steps are considered necessary" for their protection (Alan McGregor writes).

The statement coincided with a Swiss television report that a ransom of \$4 million (£2.1 million) was demanded for two ICRC technicians, Emanuel Christen and Elio Enriquez, held hostage for 10 months and released on August 9 and 14.

## Brando bail

Los Angeles — Christian Brando, son of Marlon Brando, was ordered to be released on \$2 million (£1.06 million) bail after the actor put up his Hollywood mansion as security. Brando hugged his son, charged with murdering his half-sister's boyfriend. (Reuters)

## Troops on alert

Ottawa — Several thousand Canadian troops were moved close to the scene of recent armed confrontations between Mohawk Indians and Quebec police. The army said the troops were prepared to act quickly if needed.

## Treasure ruling

New York — A US judge has ruled that five British insurance companies were not entitled to a share of the hundreds of millions of dollars in gold found in a shipwreck off South Carolina.

lines the strength of Mr Taylor's hand in the negotiations for a ceasefire in the ravaged capital, Monrovia. With his guerrillas now poised for a final assault on Samuel Doe's fortified mansion, he has already established himself as a central figure in the diplomatic manoeuvring.

His decision to allow a convoy of foreigners to be driven through his territory to Buchanan for evacuation by US military helicopters earlier this week was clearly part of a strategy to convince outsiders that he cannot be excluded from any agreement.

The macabre fiasco of his Patriotic Front's claim to have ambushed and killed Prince Johnson, the rival rebel leader, only for him to pop up on the BBC World Service a few hours later, does not seem to have done Mr Taylor any serious damage in the eyes of all concerned. The latest talks will be particularly welcome to those responsible for organising the peacekeeping force. Although most of the 2,500 troops are now in Sierra Leone, there is still no vestige of an effective central command, let alone of preparations for an imminent departure to Liberia.

At General Quiaoo's headquarters in Wilberforce Barracks yesterday the only sign of activity was a couple of Ghanaian privates examining the innards of an elderly typewriter. In another corner of their office, a corporal was sifting through a pile of maps of Liberia that looked suspiciously like those issued by the tourism ministry in the days before the country was engulfed by civil war.

According to the Ghanians' spick-and-span regimental sergeant-major, the only West African officer in barracks that day was from Guinea. A tall and erect captain, he regretted that no information could be issued without the approval of *mon général* and, alas, General Quiaoo had just departed for Banjul. When might he be back? A smile, a graceful shrug. "Perhaps soon," he said.

The evident unreadiness of the peacekeeping force appears to reflect the political differences that persist beneath the surface of West Africa's unprecedented decision to abandon long-held principles of non-intervention in another country's internal affairs to half the carnage in Liberia.

While Ghana, Sierra Leone and The Gambia are looking for a peaceful separation of the warring factions, both Guinea and Nigeria — the latter the regional military superpower — may be looking rather further ahead to what comes after the Doe regime.

Besides their previous backing for this tyrant, both nations are still smarting from Mr Taylor's calculated attacks on their embassies in Monrovia and several thousand of their citizens are still confined behind guerrilla lines.

In private, sources here suggest that Lagos in particular would not mind handing the Patriotic Front's ragtag fighters a short, sharp lesson in realities of discipline and firepower. That thought seems to have also occurred to Mr Taylor, who may well be aiming to make non-opposition to the peacekeeping force conditional upon a scaling down of the presence of Nigerian and Guinean troops on the ground.



Polar symbol: Captain Anatoli Lamekov handing Dennis Potera, a West German student, a symbolic key to the North Pole. At 15, Dennis was the youngest of the passengers from nine countries who sailed on the first cruise to the pole in the Soviet icebreaker Rossiya.

## Moscow readers study the case of Trotsky's killer

From MARY DEJEVSKY  
IN MOSCOW

SINCE day-to-day press censorship was abolished on August 1, Soviet journalists have enjoyed a series of adventurous excursions into historical archives. Yesterday in the official trade union paper, *Trud*, they delved into a forbidden topic with an interview with the brother of Ramón

Mercader, Trotsky's assassin, who died in 1978 in Cuba and was buried in Moscow with a headstone inscribed with the pseudonym: Ramón Ivánovich López.

Luis Mercader, interviewed in Spain, told how his brother (whom he described as a "communist fanatic") died a disillusioned man after being held a virtual prisoner in the Soviet Union before ending his days in Cuba.

His family campaigned unsuccessfully to have his real name and a proper memorial erected over his grave. "This is unjust and it is time to stand up for Ramón," his brother told the *Trud* interviewer. "It is time he was given back his name and the whole truth was told."

But, the interviewer responded, "it cannot be ruled out that in the era of glasnost things will be called by

their proper names, and it may be said, for instance, that Ramón Mercader committed a crime (political murder) and that the title 'Hero of the Soviet Union' is not awarded to such people". Luis answered: "My brother, Ramón Mercader, was given an assignment. And he fulfilled it... What a rare and tragic fate it is to be crossed off the list of people who once lived on this sinful Earth."

## Christian Democrat chief in Stasi link

From GILBERT STECHEN  
IN BONN

EAST Germany's leading political party suspended its general secretary yesterday after allegations that he had worked as an informant for the communist secret police.

The Christian Democratic Union of Lothar de Maizière, the prime minister, said that Martin Kirchner had been stripped of his duties pending an investigation.

The dismissal came hours after the West German news magazine *Stern* said it had evidence from former secret police members that Herr Kirchner had worked for the agency as a paid informant for 15 years.

Horst Korbella, the deputy party chairman, said the party had planned to question Herr Kirchner before the magazine report was made public. Herr Korbella said the party was concerned over evidence from an investigation of Volkssicherheit deputies suggesting that some had ties to the Stasi.

Herr Kirchner was one of the most important informants in East Germany.

• Honour lost: Hitler and Göring have been stripped of their last honours in Germany. Officials in Potsdam yesterday voted to strike the former Nazi leaders from the roster of honorary citizens. Embarrassed officials said the East German communists assumed that Soviet military law imposed after the second world war removed prominent Nazis from city honour roles, but the Soviet law carried no such provisions.

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Dulux Weathershield Exterior Undercoat Formulated to cope with extremes of temperature, resists cracking, quick drying. White 2.5Ltr. £13.99

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Dulux Trade Vinyl Matt Emulsion For quality, tough, hardwearing and washable with excellent covering power for interior wall and ceiling surfaces, including kitchens and bathrooms.

Black and colours 5Ltr. £20.99

Pure Brilliant White 10Ltr. £22.99

Magnolia 10Ltr. £31.99

Dulux Trade Vinyl Matt Emulsion Effective on relief wallpaper and other textured surfaces. Its mid-sheen finish is tough and washable.

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Dulux Trade Eggshell Finish Oil-based paint formulated with low odour solvents gives a tough, durable mid-sheen finish for interior and exterior walls, plaster and masonry surfaces.

Pure Brilliant White 2.5Ltr. £10.99

Black and colours 2.5Ltr. £14.99

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Dulux Trade Undercoat Has excellent penetrating action, ideal for levelling, good adhesion and "clings" to sharp edges. For interior and exterior use.

Pure Brilliant White 2.5Ltr. £10.99

Black and colours 2.5Ltr. £14.99

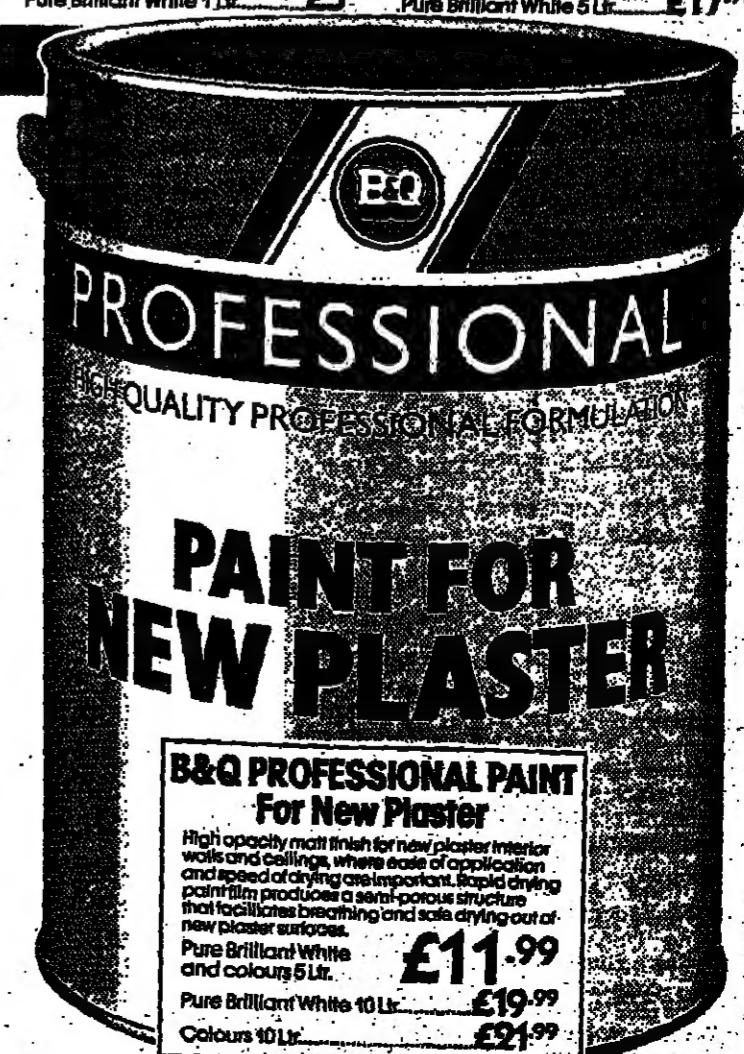
Pure Brilliant White 5Ltr. £18.99

Dulux Trade High Gloss Finish For the protection and decoration of interior and exterior surfaces not subject to chemical attack.

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Pure Brilliant White 5Ltr. £17.99



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B&Q Professional High Gloss Finish An alloy gloss finish for use on interior and exterior surfaces including wood, metal, plaster and walls.

Pure Brilliant White 750ml. £3.99

Colours 750ml. £4.99

Pure Brilliant White 2.5Ltr. £8.99

Colours 2.5Ltr. £11.99

Pure Brilliant White 5Ltr. £15.99

B&Q Professional Eggshell Finish Oil-based paint suitable for walls and ceilings. For walls, ceilings and woodwork.

Pure Brilliant White 750ml. £3.99

Colours 750ml. £4.99

Pure Brilliant White 2.5Ltr. £8.99

Colours 2.5Ltr. £11.99

Pure Brilliant White 5Ltr. £15.99

B&Q Professional Acrylic Primer Universal water-borne acrylic primer. Undercoat suitable for interior and exterior walls and masonry surfaces.

Pure Brilliant White 750ml. £6.99

Pure Brilliant White 2.5Ltr. £12.99

B&Q Professional Primer Sealer Oil-based primer for walls and ceilings including wood, hardwood, plywood and chipboard.

Pure Brilliant White 750ml. £6.99

Pure Brilliant White 2.5Ltr. £12.99

B&Q Professional Metal Primer Phosphate anti-corrosive priming paint for ferrous and non-ferrous bare metal surfaces including iron, steel and aluminium.

Pure Brilliant White 5Ltr. £12.99

Pure Brilliant White 10Ltr. £23.99

Pure Brilliant White 2.5Ltr. £13.99

B&Q Professional Masonry Stabilising Primer Clear, unpigmented oil-based primer for binding down chalky, under-brown and red stains on exterior masonry surfaces prior to application of B&Q Smooth Masonry Paint.

Eau de Nil 750ml. £6.99

Eau de Nil 2.5Ltr. £12.99

Eau de Nil 5Ltr. £13.99

B&Q Professional Paint For New Plaster High opacity matt finish for new plaster interior walls and ceilings, where date of application and speed of drying are important. Should drying conditions produce a semi-porous structure then this will produce a semi-porous structure.

Pure Brilliant White 5Ltr. £11.99

Pure Brilliant White 10Ltr. £19.99

Colours 10Ltr. £21.99

Chris  
Dempsey  
chief  
Stasi

# Son of Zia returns to drum up support for political mission

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

JIJAZ ul-Haq, son of the late military ruler, General Zia, has returned to Pakistan after a 17-year absence to pursue a mission to "carry on my father's legacy". He says people remember the former leader as honest, incorruptible and a good Muslim.

Mr Ijaz, aged 38, has addressed 66 public meetings in 52 towns in the past month in a drive to build up a political following. He says, "He is attracting large crowds. I only have to sit in my car and a thousand people come to kiss my hand."

Tomorrow he will move into the national limelight as principal speaker at a rally at the Faisal Mosque in Islamabad to commemorate the second anniversary of his father's death.

At precisely 3.51pm, the time of the still unexplained aircraft crash in Punjab that killed Zia, Mr Ijaz will call on the nation to offer prayers. He says he has proof that the crash was sabotage. "What bothers me is that no criminal investigation ever took place. At the right time I may go to the courts. Everybody is covering it up."

General Mustafa Jatoi, the caretaker prime minister, will be out of town tomorrow in what is clearly a diplomatic absence during a day of celebrations in Zia's memory.

Mr Ijaz has been appointed chief organiser of the powerful Muslim League, the first sign that he is starting to move rapidly through the right-wing political ranks. "I want to hold the forces of the right to

gether," he said. "I am 101 per cent a democrat. I would be the first to oppose martial law." Mr Ijaz is considering setting up his own party if the Muslim League refuses to quit the caretaker government, which he says includes undesirable elements. "I have a misunderstanding with Jatoi on the make-up of the cabinet," he said.

He thought that disillusion with the new administration had already set in and it would take only one or two more "bad decisions" for people to lose faith in it completely. Like many on the right wing, he wants to replace the parliamentary system with a presidential form of government. Mr Ijaz doubted whether elections would be held on October 24, as promised. He also doubted if the poll, when it was eventually held, would be fair.

Hundreds of posters of Zia have appeared throughout Islamabad this week as his son addressed public meetings to press the theme that his misunderstood father was a simple man of the people. Mr Ijaz said his father brought stability to the country. He was from a lower middle-class background and could relate to the poor. "His way of living was simple. He lived in a small army house. He was a doctor. One worked in the computer section of a big bank when he was president of Pakistan. He was not against women working." And said Mr Ijaz, "he was a friend of democracy. "My father wanted to bring in democracy from grassroots levels."

Mr Ijaz rejects any suggestion that his father made a fortune while running the country. "Where is the for-

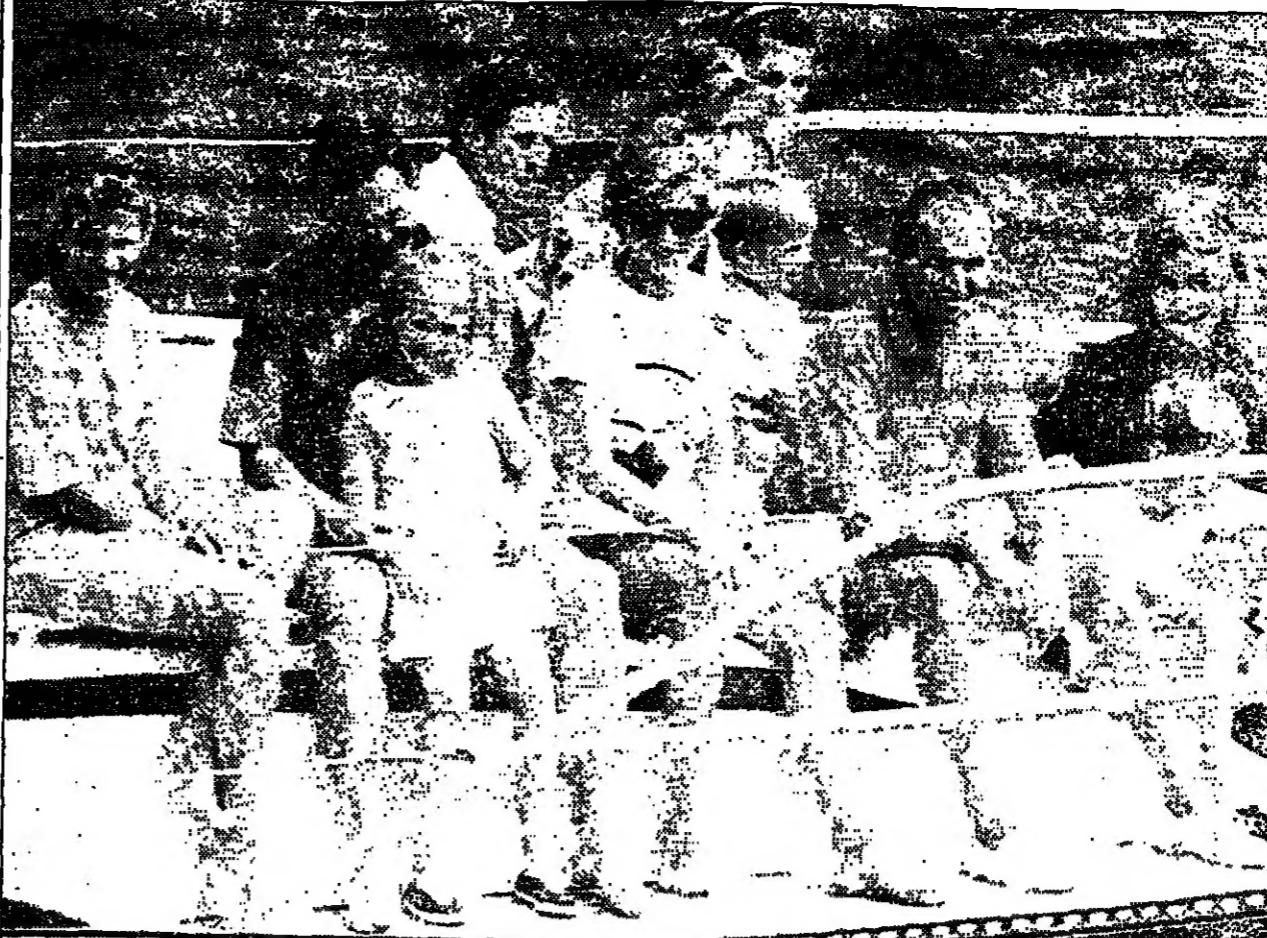
tune?" he said, noting that he is living in a borrowed house. He is having his own house built out of insurance money from his father's death.

"When I left for Southern Illinois University in 1972 I had \$1,300 (£682 at today's exchange rates). In the evenings I cleaned floors of the business administration building." Four weeks ago, according to Mr Ijaz, Pakistani tax authorities went back through 26 years of his father's records and found nothing wrong. "I do not have a single penny of investments in Pakistan," he said.

Mr Ijaz said that unlike rich people like Benazir Bhutto, the dismissed prime minister, he could relate to ordinary people. "I am not an industrialist or a feudal, but a working-class man from a poor background. I have received 125,000 letters asking me to carry on the mission of my father. I go to public meetings and people cry."

"I set up the Zia ul-Haq Foundation and already there are 300,000 members. This has scared the hell out of all those politicians."

He thinks his father was greatly misunderstood. For example, he supported women's rights. "He made his daughters go to school. One is a doctor. One worked in the computer section of a big bank when he was president of Pakistan. He was not against women working." And said Mr Ijaz, "he was a friend of democracy. "My father wanted to bring in democracy from grassroots levels."



King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain, right, on their yacht off Majorca with the Prince and Princess of Wales and their children and former King Constantine of Greece and family. A visit by the Princess of Wales to Pakistan next month has been postponed after President Ishaq Khan's dissolution of the National Assembly

## Singh 'ready for war' over borders

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

INDIA would rather wage a second war of independence than bow to terrorism on its frontiers. V. P. Singh, the prime minister, said yesterday after suspected Sikh militants exploded two bombs and killed at least 11 people.

In a televised independence day speech at the 16th-century Red Fort in old Delhi, Mr Singh announced that India had successfully test-fired a new missile, and said: "I am

ready to die with Indians on the border (rather) than see from New Delhi our borders being violated.

"The time has come to decide who is with India and who is not," he said, after a bomb killed five people near a temple in northwest Delhi. Police said the explosion also wounded 23 people, four of them seriously.

Shortly after Mr Singh's speech another bomb ex-

ploded in Punjab, killing seven people in a packed minibus and wounding 11 others. A local politician was also assassinated. Sikh militants are waging a violent campaign for independence in Punjab.

A telephone caller to newspapers in Srinagar, the capital of Indian-held Kashmir, claimed responsibility for the Delhi explosion for the Jammu Kashmir Liberation

Front, which is leading a separatist campaign.

Mr Singh said India had test-fired a medium-range, surface-to-air missile called Akash, which means "sky" in the ancient Sanskrit language. He did not say when it was fired. Defence experts said it was capable of intercepting and destroying high- and low-flying aircraft. United News of India said the missile had a range of about 15 miles.

India, which has the atomic bomb, has test-fired four other missiles. In May 1989 its scientists fired a surface-to-surface ballistic missile with a range of 1,550 miles.

Mr Singh did not directly threaten to use the missile against Pakistan. He made the announcement while talking about the country's pride in its armed forces. He then referred to the good relations India had with its neighbours, except for Pakistan.

More than 3,000 people have been killed this year in secessionist campaigns in three border states, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Assam. Mr Singh, whose minority government took power nine months ago, said he wanted to redress injustices that led to the uprisings. "But we will subdue the terrorists with force of arms," he said.

Tens of thousands of security men were on duty in three states in anticipation of trouble as India entered its 44th year of independence from Britain.

In Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, the authorities allowed a dawn-to-dusk break in the curfew that has been in force for much of the past eight months. Residents shunned the relaxation and called their own curfew.

## Violence erupts at Seoul rally

From SIMON WARNER IN SEOUL

THOUSANDS of stone-throwing radical students fought riot police at the entrance to a university in the South Korean capital after a unification rally yesterday, but were unable to break through a wall of tear gas and truncheons.

Five busesloads of dissidents were allowed through the police cordon, but when the 10,000 people attending the rally on the Yonsei University campus tried to march out after them, 2,000 police moved in with shields and tear gas. There were reports of scores of injuries, burnt-out police vehicles and numerous arrests. Sporadic protests were staged in the city centre throughout the night.

The buses headed for the border town of Panmunjom, where the passengers, representing South Korea's biggest dissident group, intended to join a unification rally sponsored by North Korea on the northern side of the fortified border.

Riot police turned back the buses, along with a group of right-wing activists trying to make the same trip. Police said that, because the North had rejected the South's terms for allowing dissidents to attend the event, their participation was banned. Reports said that the North went ahead with the rally but decided against letting its participants cross into the South.

This was to be a week of travel between the two Koreas, but all of the high-sounding proposals seemed to have strings attached and nothing was ever agreed. There has yet to be a single crossing in either direction. A currency exchange booth and a customs post set up for the occasion stand deserted just

## Convicted mayor to seek seat on council

From SUSAN ELICOTT  
IN WASHINGTON

MARION Barry, the Mayor of Washington, convicted last week of cocaine possession, has ended months of speculation by announcing that he will keep his pledge not to run for a fourth term this autumn. Instead, Mr Barry said he would seek a seat in the capital's city council.

A campaign by Mr Barry was the last chance of exciting city politics in coming months. Jesse Jackson, the black civil rights leader, ruled himself out earlier this year.

"I have a lot to offer this city," Mr Barry said through his campaign manager, ignoring the advice of many former supporters that he abandon politics and concentrate on recovering from his addiction. The mayor, arrested on a drugs charge last January in a "sting" operation by the US government, was convicted by a mainly black jury of one count of possessing cocaine and acquitted of another. The jurors failed to reach a unanimous verdict on 12 other drugs and perjury charges.

Mr Barry, a masterful politician who lost much support during his trial, had kept Washington guessing about his career plans for weeks, even though he declared before the trial that he would not seek a fourth term. On Monday he left the Democratic party in order to "keep his options open" of running for a city office as an independent.

Mr Barry stands a good chance of winning a council seat with support from Washington's mainly poor black community. Washingtonians have not ruled out the possibility of Mr Barry running for mayor again in the future, once he has shown a sustained ability to stay away from illegal drugs.

Political commentators are now free to turn their attentions to the less colourful Democratic candidates that remain: three city council members, a lawyer and a non-voting congressional delegate. The leading Republican challenger, in a city about 90 per cent Democrat, is a retired police chief, Maurice Turner, who may have some appeal for Washingtonians who see drugs and lawlessness as one of the city's main problems.

Among the Democrats, John Ray appears the most likely to win the race. He has the biggest coffers and strong support from developers. His main competitors are the only white candidate, Dave Clarke, chairman of the council, and Charlene Drew Jarvis, a councilwoman. Both have strong black support, but many whites consider Mr Clarke too liberal.

Some marginal spice to the race, which will centre on the city's budget crisis, comes in the form of Prisly Williams Godfrey, a former madame who supports the legalisation of prostitution. "Miss Prisly" is running as a candidate for her Love Party.

# FROM B&Q

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Specialist paints dedicated to individual surfaces where ordinary gloss and emulsion are not suitable. We have a wide range of specialist paints giving longer-lasting, better-looking results.

International Floor Paint: quick drying. For use on patio paving, stone, tiles, wood, lime and concrete.

Colours 250ml £6.99

Colours 4 Lit. £16.99

International Garage Floor Paint: tough, hardwearing paint for use on interior or exterior concrete, brick and paving.

Colours 250ml £17.99

International Concrete Floor Sealer: quick-drying sealer for use on interior or exterior concrete, stone and brick.

Clear 250ml £6.99

Clear 2.5 Lit. £16.99

International Doormat Paint: tough, effective paint for use on concrete tiles, brick, stone and paving.

Colours 250ml £2.99

International Fast Floor Paint: quick-drying, tough, hardwearing floor paint for interior or exterior use on concrete, stone and tiles.

Country Cream, Fawn, Grey or Tile Red 750ml £8.49

White 750ml £6.99

White 2.5 Lit. £18.99

Black 2.5 Lit. £18.99

Black 750ml £5.99

Black 250ml £2.99

Black Matt: Interior and Exterior Paint: smooth, hardwearing protective matt finish for use on wood, metal and other suitable primed surfaces. Highly opaque and non-reflective, can be used for dark rooms and stage backdrops.

Black 250ml £2.99

Black 750ml £5.99

Black 2.5 Lit. £18.99

Black High Gloss or Satin Radiator Enamel: non-yellowing, stays brilliant white for years, protects even on very hot radiators, shrugs off dirt, resists knocks and scratches.

White 250ml £3.49

White 750ml £6.99

White 2.5 Lit. £12.99

Black 250ml £12.99

Black 750ml £9.99

Black 2.5 Lit. £19.99

Black Matt: Interior and Exterior Paint: smooth, hardwearing protective matt finish for use on interior or exterior concrete tiles, brick and paving.

Colours 250ml £2.99

Colours 750ml £5.99

Colours 2.5 Lit. £18.99

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Colours 250ml £2.99

Colours 750ml £5.99

Colours 2.5 Lit. £18.99

Black Matt: Interior

# King Husain's time to choose

Amir Taheri

**K**ing Husain of Jordan, who meets President Bush today to offer mediation on the Gulf crisis, believes his is a mission of peace. But the "little monarch" will be fighting for his crown and his life. The crisis threatens to destroy a fine balancing act that has made him a United States, plus tactical alliances with regional powers that happen to be in the ascendancy at any given time, and a constant dialogue with Israel. This has secured for Husain Western military support whenever his throne was directly threatened, and an Israeli insurance policy that discouraged open attacks on his kingdom by the more radical Arab states.

Only once did he try to depart from this policy: when he threw his forces behind Gamal Abdul-Nasser of Egypt in the Six Day War in 1967. The result was the loss of the West Bank and east Jerusalem to Israel. Some observers believe that by being drawn into an alliance with Iraq today, the king might be making his second, and possibly last, mistake.

Husain established himself during the 1980s as Iraq's staunchest ally in the war against Iran, by allowing Iraq military installations in the country. Saddam Hussein repaid him handsomely in cash, and last year honoured his dynasty by inaugurating a lavish new mausoleum for his great uncle, King Faisal. It was then that King Husain first described the Iraqi dictator as a "true Arab patriot".

Jordan's alliance with Iraq has an economic basis too. Some 30 per cent of Jordan's exports are to Iraq. Tens of thousands of Jordanian farmers and small manufacturers earn their living from trade with Iraq.

King Husain has little reason to be sorry for the invasion of Kuwait: the Kuwaiti ruling dynasty supported the enemies of his family during the long struggle for the control of Arabia's holy shrines. Nor has the king any love for the Saudi ruling family. It was Ibn Saud who defeated Sharif Husain, his great-grandfather, and ended Hashemite rule in Hijaz.

Some observers believe King Husain wants to avenge his family's humiliation by helping to destroy the Kuwaitis and the Saudis. Some even suggest that he dreams of seizing control of Arabia's holy shrines at Mecca and Medina during a global redrawing of the region's political map. But the king is too wise to harbour such illusions, and too much of an opportunist to want to accompany Saddam to the bitter end. More likely, he wants to extricate himself from his alliance with Baghdad but does not know how.

More than 60 per cent of

*...and moreover*

## CLEMENT FREUD

**W**hat is it about copyists and people who sell them? You go into an office equipment shop, see one of the size and definition you need and ask how much it costs. And they say: "Well...". Fishmongers don't say "Well" when you ask for the price of haddock, nor hardware shops if you go to buy a hammer.

So you repeat: "How much?" "It depends," they say. "Will you want to purchase or lease? Take advantage of our 24-hour call-out service or maintenance contract, get an extra roller, some bottles of toner to see you through?"

"No," I say. "I just want to buy this machine and if it goes wrong, which being new it will presumably not for a while, I would appreciate the name of someone who could come and put it right."

They don't like that. Their favourite option is having you sign a seven-year hire purchase agreement and every quarter you look at the counter and send them £p for each copy you have made. This, they explain, is the norm in the industry. I am a buyer, not a renter. When I bought my car, Rover did not ask me to send them money for each mile I clocked; why should I pay the office equipment company each time my machine uses my toner to copy something onto my paper?

Perhaps I was just unlucky, but to date every copier salesman I have encountered has filled me with apprehension: if any of my children had wanted to go into the photocopy sales business I should have tried hard to dissuade them.

Eight years ago I visited a warehouse in Southwark where they sold secondhand machines, saw one I quite liked, was told it was good for another million copies, agreed a price and shook hands on it. "And then there is the VAT," said the man writing out a bill and adding £50 for delivery.

"You are an unmitigated swine," I said. "We made a deal. How can you behave like this?" The man replied that I hadn't seen nothing yet and added four other items to the agreed sum.

I have an actor friend who went to work in New York and was told to be extremely careful

in Manhattan at night because the streets were thronged with hoodlums and pickpockets. He had been there a week, was walking home from his theatre, remembered the advice he had been given and was thinking how exaggerated it was when a man bumped into him. A few steps later, to be on the safe side, he put his hand into his inside jacket pocket and discovered his wallet was not there. He turned and shouted "Hey!". The man who had bumped into him turned, caught his eye and my friend rushed towards him. The man ran, my friend chased; after a block and a half my friend caught him, grabbed him by the shoulder, turned him round and snarled: "Wallet!"

The man gave him the wallet and looked at him with fear in his eyes. My friend slapped his face, turned and went back to his hotel room, where, on the bedside table, he found his wallet.

The moral of this story is that if you expect something ugly to happen, it will.

Last week I tried to get a new photocopy as ours is making the sort of noise that you hear in geriatric wards; also it misses some lines and blurs others. My wife had opened negotiations with what she considered a rather decent photocopy firm and I said: "These are terrible people; we would be extinct were it not for WWF. This is not woman's work." And I saw the man, gave him a hard time, made a deal, shook his hand. The copier was due to arrive on Thursday. I told our Portuguese cleaner to wait for the machine and sign nothing.

When I returned to the flat on Friday there was no photocopy, but a letter from the company enclosing the contract to which they had added VAT. I rang the firm and shouted at them, told them what happened to people who write things on agreements after they have been signed, threatened them with Rottweilers. I felt a little better until I remembered that I still need a photocopy and that as a net payer of VAT I could have reclaimed the 15 per cent.

What is it about people who sell photocopies... or do they go home and say: "What is it about our customers?"

Anthony Parsons untangles the strands with which Saddam is weaving a web to catch the West

# Keep the aggressor clearly in mind

**S**addam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait and the international reaction it provoked have given the Middle Eastern kaleidoscope a violent twist from which it will settle into a different, and at the moment unpredictable pattern. The gyrations are now affecting the Iran-Iraq problem, with Saddam's announcement that Iraqi troops will withdraw from Iranian territory, and that Iraq will accept the 1975 agreement on the division of the Shatt al Arab waterway (which Saddam had denounced before invading).

It is no surprise that Iran has welcomed Iraq's initiatives. When Iraqi forces crossed the frontier ten years ago, the Iranian war aims included total Iraqi withdrawal, the reinstatement of the 1975 agreement on the division of the Shatt al Arab waterway (which Saddam had denounced before invading).

Saddam's motives are obvious enough. Iran is a formidable neighbour, which, had it not been for Western assistance, would probably have crushed Iraq in the years following the failure of Saddam's intended blitzkrieg of September 1980. If he can neutralise the threat on his eastern border, his hands will be free to cope with the crisis caused by his aggression against Kuwait.

After seven years of war, Iran was prepared to modify the last three demands and to accept the UN Security Council's resolution 598, establishing an impartial body to enquire into responsibility for the conflict, and a study of the question of compensation. On the face of it, Saddam has conceded everything of importance to Iran — withdrawal, release of prisoners, the 1975 agreement, and action on responsibility and compensation.

way Iraq would appear as the potential victim of "Western imperialism" rather than the original criminal. He must hope that Iran, her demands satisfied, will at best denounce sanctions against Iraq, and at worst turn a blind eye to traffic across a long and unpoliceable border.

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After probably more than a million casualties in eight years of war, as well as extensive economic damage, missile bombardment of open cities, and poison-gas attacks, the Iranians are unlikely to rush into Saddam's embrace. He has broken a treaty once and could do so again. He is the man denounced by the Ayatollah Khomeini as an aggressor who must be

The rest of the world must keep the various strands of the crisis separate and not allow Saddam's initiatives — both propagandist and sincere — to blur the issue so that it looks to the people of the region like kind of Manichean struggle between the forces of light ("good" Arabs and other Muslims) against the forces of darkness (American and European "imperialism" with its "stooges", some thinly disguised as the United Nations).

Also, Iranians are tough negotiators, profoundly distrustful of their opponents in any circumstances. On the other hand, the Iranian leadership must be conscious that its attempts to subvert the regime in Iraq provoked the invasion of 1980, and that if it ceases such activity, Saddam is less likely to tear up another treaty.

The Iranians must also believe he has learnt that there is a great difference between taking on Iran and invading Kuwait. So we may soon witness a scene — perhaps possible only in the Middle East — in which the United Nations takes enforcement action against an aggressor on the one hand while helping to negotiate a peace treaty involving the same aggressor on the other.

with Iran-Iraq, and Iran will have to maintain sanctions under international law, regardless of its relations with its former enemy. Any further action to enforce the sanctions, such as a blockade, must be, and be seen to be, a genuine UN operation under the military articles of the charter. Only in this way will the international consensus be maintained.

The third separate strand is the multinational (mainly American, Arab and British) response to the Saudi request for military assistance to deter an Iraqi threat of invasion. This is perfectly legitimate in international law and has nothing to do with Arab-Israel, Iran-Iraq, or UN sanctions, and must remain distinct.

It is in Saddam's interest to confuse all these issues in the hope of breaking the international consensus, mobilising the people of the Middle East against their governments and distracting attention from his original crime of aggression. He must not be allowed to do so.

*Sir Anthony Parsons was British ambassador to the United Nations 1979-82, and has been a diplomat in six Arab capitals.*

# Stop toadying to the specious claims of animal libbers

**B**ernard Levin says we should respect nature, but have gone too far in protecting it against our interests

**I** must make one thing absolutely clear at the outset: I have never knowingly harmed a Natterjack toad. I mean it: never. Not only have I never stamped on or kicked one, I have never shouted at one, I have never blown whistles that might have startled it, set Natterjack toad traps for it, jeered at its appearance, behaviour or habits (who am I to talk?), or even spoken disparagingly of it. So when I learned that experts had thought it had died out, but that it had just managed to survive, and that plans were afoot to persuade it to breed at a rate that would ensure its future, by decanting several brace of them at a secret and well-guarded rendezvous, I wished them well.

There is, of course, a flourishing society called The Friends of the Natterjack toad. I shall not apply to join, but I shall never give cause for the members to write me reprobable letters. But I maintain that human beings are more important, and if it were a choice of the human race or the Natterjack toad for extinction, I would vote for the survival of the human race.

I make that point partly because it constitutes my theme today, and partly because there are people who reject it entirely. The Friends of the Natterjack toad, we can be sure, are respectable, peace-loving folk, who seek only to persuade others by reason to love their little green friends. Unfortunately, all such organisations are sooner or later challenged by extremists in their ranks, who denounce the members of the parent body as ineffectual fainthearts, set up on their own under some such title as Natterjack Toads Lib. and start to smash other people's windows. (Natterjack Toads Lib. do not actually care about Natterjack toads; what they are after is the pleasure of the window-smashing, though they would smash the windows of anyone who said so.)

I have recently counted the number of species of sentient creatures which have lived on our earth, sometimes for millions of years, but ultimately died out, since the first non-vegetable life appeared on earth: I made it 11,784,231. (While I was about it, I also counted the non-sentient species which have similarly waxed, waned and vanished; it came to 67,388,904. Chesterfield, a long way ahead of his time, contributed notably to the debate which has led to such crackpot outifts as Natterjack Toads Lib. He invented a supervegan movement which thought it was just as cruel to eat vegetables — they called it "Drinking the green blood of the silent animals" — and insisted that we should all live on salt. "Then came the pamphlet from Oregon, where the thing was tried, called *Why Should Salt Suffer?*")

Some of the species that are now

no more than folk memories, sketches, prehistoric cave paintings or fossils have some claim on our regrets, particularly if it was man who hunted them to extinction. The North American aurochs, for instance, and of course the dodo, which at least has the satisfaction of being firmly fixed in the language. But the almost unimaginably large number of surviving species (I even counted those, too — there are 27,119,854) offers great reassurance to those who believe that everything from the elephant to the bacillus is about to disappear for ever, leaving man triumphant but lonely over his vanished kingdom.

This is not a plea for the indiscriminate slaughter of anything on four or more legs. Or none, of course, though I must say that if I were told that present-day whale-hunting without restrictions would produce a masterpiece the equal of *Moby Dick*, I would think the bargain a very good one. (The whales are safe: most of today's novelists could not summon up enough imagination to write about any animal bigger than a dachshund.) But I have learned to be suspicious of all this modish talk about "animal rights", which in my experience is generally unsubstantiated in principle, grossly and untruthfully exaggerated in argument, frequently harmful or criminal in practice, and usually based much less on concern for animals than on hatred for human beings.

I have repeatedly found that



when I tell people it is a serious crime in this country to disturb a bat — just to disturb, not to kill, torture, cook or even strike it — I always thought to be joking, or using my notorious hyperbole to make a point. But it is the literal truth: you can be fined in four figures if, having found a nest of bats in your loft, you pick it up very gently, take it to the nearest hollow oak, and put it, no less gently, into a commodious hole. I

take no part in the argument over the likelihood of bats spreading diseases. I do not believe that they deliberately get themselves tangled in the hair of ladies of a nervous disposition, and I make every allowance for the fact that I instinctively find them repulsive, but I insist that a country which enacts laws involving severe punishment for a householder who finds his home infested with bats and — without harming them in any way — removes them, has gone raving mad.

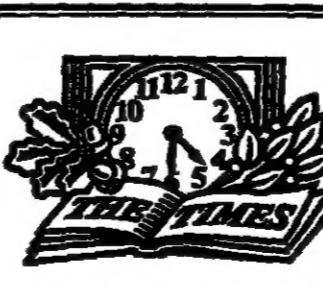
I think that we have a duty to care for the animals we keep as pets, and another, more distant

**W**ho would have the impudence to say that nature is played out?

Over the years — millions of them — she has not only watched her creations come and go, but has devised many more, in forms that their predecessors could not have imagined. (What do you think a woolly mammoth would say if it came round a corner and met Mr Arthur Scargill?) Hundreds of theories have been devoted to the mysterious extinction of the dinosaurs, but has there been even one that speculates on the far more mysterious creation of them? Presumptuous man himself will one day disappear, and since the dinosaurs took some 60 million years to do so, he may, without knowing it, already be well over the hill; I do not suppose that there were leading articles in the *Diplodocus Times*, deplored the indifference of its readers to the evidence that they had only 30 million years to go.

Let the Natterjack toad thrive in its new and exciting habitat. If he comes and croaks on my windowsill when I am trying to sleep I shall do no more than pick him up gently and put him in the garden. But if I am prosecuted for doing so, he will never hear the end of it, and nor will you.

*See letter, A Leap in Time, opposite.*



The Haymarket was approached originally, but rejected the production because of the continued success of *Ben Elton's Gassing*. An associate of Duncan Weidon, producer of *The Circle*, said: "We are still talking about London. No one has made a decision yet." Rumours are beginning to circulate that the play may not reach the West End.

Rex Harrison was to have topped the bill after appearing opposite Granger on Broadway. But his death in New York robbed the British production of its biggest box office name.

Ned Sherrin, director of the hit

show *Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell*,

who saw the Broadway version of

*The Circle*, said: "There has

already been one revival in London. It's a rather slow and

stately play. I don't think it will be a major hit. It will be a limited

success."

*Art of confection*

**V**isitors to the Usher Gallery in Lincoln next month

could be forgiven for think-

ing they had strolled by mistake

government at Hull university, in the journal *Parliamentary Affairs*, has overturned the general Tory assumption that the 33 MPs who voted for Sir Anthony Meyer and the 24 who abstained came from the wet wing of the party.

Tory whips have not been able to identify which MPs proposed and seconded Meyer's challenge, let alone those who voted for him in the secret ballot. Norton breaks down Tory MPs into party faithful, Thatcherites, populists, wets and damps. "The core of Meyer's support was expected, and safely assumed to have come from the wets and the damps," he says. Norton calculates that the number of Meyer voters and abstainers, drawn from those known to be opposed to Mrs Thatcher was no more than 40. That still leaves almost 20 votes unaccounted for.

Norton says that rebels must also have come from the populists and, most surprisingly, the party faithful. "Meyer's support of necessity included some members — at least five, possibly 15 — of the party faithful," he says.

*● The Tory backbench aviation committee has completed preparations for its next overseas fact-finding trip — to Saudi Arabia.*

*Visas have arrived for the six*

*members of the committee, who*

*include former RAF pilot Keith*

*Mans. The MPs are determined*

*to press ahead next month with their*

*mission to inspect Saudi military*

*forces. Would it not be less*

*expensive for the taxpayer and*

*safier for the MPs if they monitored*

*the revving tanks and hovering*

*helicopters on television news in*



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## THE PYTHON'S EMBRACE

President Saddam Hussein's extraordinary peace offer to Iran is a shrewd tactical move intended, as he candidly admits, to protect Iraq's flanks and free 24 divisions for "the arena of the great duel". It is also a political aggression, he has asked Iraqis to accept that the Iran-Iraq war in which a million died was pointless. After two years of telling his countrymen that Iraq won that war, he has torn up Iraq's war aims against Iran, in effect admitting defeat.

Unless the deal includes secret clauses, Iran has been offered a rare bargain. Without demanding anything in return, Iraq will withdraw from Iranian territory, exchange 100,000 prisoners of war, accept an enquiry into the causes of the war and return to the 1975 Algiers agreement under which Iraq renounced a number of territorial claims on Iran and agreed to share the Shatt al-Arab waterway. The West should bring all its diplomacy to bear to ensure that, even if Iran accepts, Tehran offers precisely nothing in return: neither food, nor arms, nor guarantees of support nor even neutrality.

Saddam desperately needs peace with Iran. Peace would enable him to transfer troops to the border with Syria, which has large forces tied up in Lebanon, to deter President Assad from sending forces to Saudi Arabia (a commitment which undermines Saddam's propaganda effort to unite Arabs against infidel imperialists). He needs it for domestic insurance, too: were Iran-based Iraqi Shia militants to carry out their threat to launch cross-border raids, the response of Iraq's Shia majority is unpredictable; and the 1975 agreement also commits Iran to refrain from supporting Iraq's Kurdish rebels. Were Iran to turn a blind eye to smugglers, the impact of sanctions against Iraq would be reduced.

Iran, however, has several reasons to inspect the gift horse thoroughly. The first is that Saddam's peace offer would not provide the United Nations guarantees which Iran, knowing Saddam to be a liar, has sought since the 1988 ceasefire. Tehran remembers with what declarations of brotherly love Saddam signed the Algiers agreement, and the oath he swore on the Koran never to return to the treaty when he tore it up in 1980. That is why Iran has

insisted on UN participation in negotiations since the ceasefire, refusing unmediated bilateral negotiations. Iran also knows that, were he to lose Kuwait's port facilities, Saddam would revive Iraq's claims to the Shatt al-Arab.

Secondly, Iran has suffered enough at the hands of a relatively small and poor Iraq to think twice about helping Saddam to hold on to "greater Iraq". There has been no endorsement by Tehran of Saddam's invocation of *jihad*. That is partly on religious grounds. In Iraq itself, Grand Ayatollah Khoi, the spiritual leader of the Shias, has ruled that *jihad* may not be launched by a secular leader, only by a commander of the faithful. Realpolitik also enters in. Immediately after broadcasting Saddam's offer, Tehran radio reminded listeners yesterday that "the python now coiled on Kuwait's chest and threatening other Gulf states is the same snake reared by world arrogance against Islamic Iran".

Finally, Iran needs to improve relations with the West in order to reconstruct its economy, and stands to lose heavily by flouting UN sanctions. Iraq remains an adversary it cannot control and which cannot, beyond returning its land and soldiers, offer it anything. Iran has opposed foreign intervention as fiercely as it has condemned the invasion of Kuwait, but Saddam's suggestion that the two cooperate in freeing the Gulf of "foreign fleets and powers" is a trap. Neither has the force to do so, and Iran's oil exports would suffer from any interruption in tanker traffic.

The West's response should be to talk to Iran, possibly through West Germany and Japan, which have good relations with Tehran, not to dissuade Tehran from concluding a peace treaty with Iraq, but to emphasise its obligation under the Charter to abide by sanctions, and its economic interest in doing so. Britain should give higher priority to exploring Iran's offer to resume relations. Above all, the rest of the world should impress on Iran — directly, and through channels such as Iran's old friend, Syria — the strength of international determination to drive Saddam out of Kuwait. The world should not be deflected by a manoeuvre which, however skilful, advertises Iraq's vulnerability to a sustained siege.

## A SURFEIT OF LAWYERS

One of the government's more notable achievements has been to squeeze out many of the "old Spanish customs", with which industry and the professions used to be niggled. Even the lawyers have begun to feel the bracing winds of competition. But one of their most gallingly corrupt practices — over-manning in court — is still as bad as ever. According to figures collected by the Lord Chancellor's department, reported in *The Times* yesterday, the attempt to eliminate "double-manning" in legally-aided criminal cases has been a failure.

Wasteful inefficiency in the use of the time of well-paid lawyers is one of the main reasons why going to law is so expensive. Maximum court representation at the moment consists of Queen's Counsel, junior counsel, and instructing a solicitor. Representatives of solicitors and barristers agreed two years ago that in some cases two out of three or even one out of three of these levels of representation would be sufficient. In some cases a barrister would not need to be accompanied by a solicitor. In some cases a QC, with or without an assisting solicitor, would not need the help of junior counsel.

The body responsible for this policy of voluntary self-restraint is known (optimistically) as the efficiency commission, which brings together the Lord Chancellor's department, and the two branches of the legal profession. The policy was a well-intentioned though overdue effort to give value for money under the legal aid system, which is funded by the tax-payer.

But barristers seem to have made almost no effort to apply the new policy. Solicitors have colluded with this contempt for the recommendations of the efficiency commission. The courts have refused to use their powers to specify and limit the level of representation in

each case. Solicitors still regularly attend when they are not needed. Silks still almost invariably appear with the support of a junior — only in two jury trials out of 1,127 did a QC act alone. Only five times did a QC manage without a junior in the 171 cases where the plea was guilty. What the function of the junior was in the other 166 cases is a mystery.

Yet these QCs will have spent the greater part of their professional lives as junior counsel, often conducting cases on their own. They can hardly claim appearing alone is now beyond them, just because they have taken silk. The layman will judge that having a junior to assist is not so much an aid to good presentation in court as a status symbol, a badge of seniority, for which the client (or in this case the statutory legal aid fund) has to pay through the nose. It is also a crude method of milking the legal aid taxpayer for the benefit of a restrictive practice: the sort of behaviour which lawyers would exorcise in a trade union.

The courts have powers to stop this misuse of public money, but judges are notoriously conservative: indeed they were themselves beneficiaries of the same restrictive practices. The secretary of the Bar Council, Niall Morison, has said the change will take some while, as lawyers gradually get used to them. How gradually is gradually? Two years on, they have hardly begun.

The flexibility that comes from leaving the courts a degree of discretion is in principle desirable but has been abused. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, should let loose his famous impatience with such excuses, and make it known that he intends to impose binding restrictions on legal representation, unless more use is made of the existing discretionary powers in the next law term.

## MIMICKING THE MIND

Londoners on holiday this week who wish to catch a glimpse of so-called artificial intelligence in action could do worse than to repair to the East End to watch the Computer Olympics, which began yesterday. It may seem incongruous and even absurd for such immensely elaborate programs — the fruit of years of research in the vanguard of computer science — to compete with one another at mah-jong or backgammon. But even these gambling games are the subtle products of a long evolution, and to reproduce them in a computer program is a step towards the imitation of uniquely human mental faculties. With the most sophisticated games — the oriental game of Go, bridge, and above all chess — the task becomes even more daunting to mimic the mind itself.

At play, we are at our most human. *Homo ludens*, as the Dutch historian J. H. Huizinga defined mankind, is unconstrained by the abstract concepts and received wisdom which in other spheres prevent most minds from departing from well-worn channels. In play everyone is creative, which is why children — whose receptive minds can improvise so much better than adults — love to play. "In chess," wrote the psychologist Gerald Abrahams, "the mind comes as near as possible to pure vision, to that spontaneous act of intuition which apprehends and controls processes without being forced to do so." The chess-playing computer tries to arrive at what Abrahams called "the provident activity of imagination, working as it does in darkness to create light".

Though this prospect repels many non-scientists, and especially religious people, it must nevertheless be faced. Just as the satanic potential of nuclear weapons has been held in abeyance, serving even to prevent mankind from destroying itself in war, so too the coming of artificial intelligence ought not to shake the foundations of belief. Whatever computers may accomplish, the human spirit will always be the ghost in these ingenious machines.

Not only would these be programs that could surprise, even outwit their programmers: it would mean that the human mind might suddenly appear as an open book, scarcely more mysterious in its operation than its electronic *Doppelgänger*. The fantastic creatures of Kabballistic myth and Gothic horror — the Golem and Frankenstein's monster — would become a reality no less sinister.

Though this prospect repels many non-scientists, and especially religious people, it must nevertheless be faced. Just as the satanic potential of nuclear weapons has been held in abeyance, serving even to prevent mankind from destroying itself in war, so too the coming of artificial intelligence ought not to shake the foundations of belief. Whatever computers may accomplish, the human spirit will always be the ghost in these ingenious machines.

## Limits of UN resolution on embargo against Iraq

From the Chairman of the United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Sir, The initial response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was a welcome sign that the world community saw the UN as the right instrument for resolving international crises. The adoption of Security Council resolutions 660 and 661 showed both the cooperation and determination that the UN was founded to promote.

However, the stated intention by the US and the UK to use force if necessary to police the embargo has ignored the central role the UN could and should continue to play. It is clearly wrong for force to be used unilaterally in support of a Security Council resolution without the Security Council being consulted about its implementation.

The sensible course would clearly have been for the US and UK to have gone back to the Security Council. That way there would be no doubt as to the legality of the "interdictions" and the extraordinary consensus in the Security Council would surely have been preserved.

Yours faithfully,  
IVOR RICHARD, Chairman,  
United Nations Association of  
Great Britain and Northern Ireland,  
3 Whitehall Court, SW1.

From Mr Evan Luard

Sir, There seems to be some confusion in public discussion at present between an embargo and a blockade.

The effect of the recent Security Council resolution is to place an obligation to cease trade (except in specified categories) on individual member states. This does not in itself give the right to any particular state or group of states to interfere with shipping on the high seas or in coastal waters to ensure that the embargo is observed.

## Police and racism

From Mr T. D. Bridge

Sir, Surely knowledge leading to respect is the only permanent cure for the ills of the Metropolitan Police in matters of racism (Ben Levin, August 6; letter, August 10). Might I suggest that the Commission establishes a simple information programme? Let every officer of the force from constable to superintendent be required to attend for one hour each week a talk on the problems, culture and backgrounds of the ethnic minorities in London. Perhaps the talks might be given mostly by those who have already had direct experience of working for substantial periods of their lives in Africa, Asia and the West Indies.

The content of the talks should be factual with, say, three speakers in each one-hour period. Hard-pressed Met officers — working with bravery and compassion let it be remembered — may protest that they cannot find even that amount of time, but surely if something along these lines is not instituted, then the young Met officers may never come to appreciate the background of those in our community who happen to be of a different colour.

I served in the King's African Rifles where there were few racial problems and in the Indian Army I found an amiable relationship between the races. The armies of Britain, India and Pakistan still benefit from the behaviour patterns established long ago.

Yours faithfully,  
T. D. BRIDGE,  
Tavistock, Devon.

August 13.

## Coats and Wavell

From Lady Joan Robertson

Sir, I do not find your obituary of Peter Coats (August 10) entirely to Peter himself or to my mother and father, Lord and Lady Wavell.

Peter came to be my father's ADC in Cairo in 1940, having joined the Wilshire Yeomanry at the outbreak of war and been sent to Palestine. He was highly intelligent and few commanders can have been more fortunate than my father in being so well served by his ADC, later PA.

He was in fact not Peter Coats but Peter Fleming who was influential in arranging publication of my father's anthology, *Other Men's Flowers*, which my father had not intended to be published.

All my family always regarded Peter as a kind, good and most helpful friend — and an amusing one. A bit of a snob he may have been, but he was totally loyal to those whom he served and who served him, whatever their social rank.

Yours sincerely,  
JOAN ROBERTSON,  
Winkfield Plain Farm,  
Winkfield,  
Windsor, Berkshire.

August 10.

## A national day

From Mr A. R. Essex

Sir, On August 1 the Swiss celebrated their national day. Houses, shops, business premises and public buildings were decked with cantonal and national flags and bunting. America has July 4, France Bastille Day, etc. England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland have their saints' days of George, David, Andrew and Patrick. But we celebrate no national UK or GB day.

As a child I remember Empire Day when we waved the Union flag and were proud to be British. In these days, when many divisive forces are stressing our nationhood, perhaps a GB day would help us to join together to show that we are proud to be British.

Yours faithfully,  
A. R. ESSEX,  
8 Trafalgar Road,  
Maidstone, Kent.

August 3.

## Museum sale

From the Chairman of National Heritage

Sir, Buxton Museum recently received an award from the Minister of State for the Environment for the best archaeological museum.

On August 1, Buxton Council passed a proposal to sell massive parts of the collection which gained the award to raise a paltry £600,000. The Blue John mine specimens and the Ashford black marble, which are key parts of the collection, would be torn out.

Such philistine meanness seems deplorable to me. Is it the outward sign of a bankrupt council — or a bankrupt nation?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN LETTS, Chairman,  
National Heritage,  
8 North Street, SW1.

August 2.

## Stamp service

From Mr Claude M. Blow

Sir, On August 2 I posted to a former colleague in Australia a Royal Mail envelope, bearing the four Queen Mother stamps, with my address and telephone number on the back. I have been sending all commemorative issues to him for the last 30 years.

Next day the Birmingham Royal Mail office telephoned to say that the stamps had been badly disfigured by the everyday cancellation and offered to send on its way a fresh envelope with a replacement set of stamps, correctly cancelled.

What a marvelous service — to pick out from the thousands of letters my badly disfigured Queen Mother stamps.

Yours faithfully,  
CLAUDE M. BLOW,  
18 Springfield Close,  
Loughborough, Leicestershire.

August 4.

## End of drought

From Mr James White

Sir, On Sunday, August 12, All Saints Church, Aisholt, prayed for rain as provided for in the Book of Common Prayer (no provision is made in the modern alternative).

We did not say the Litany, as this had been written by Crammer, at Henry VIII's request, to cater for the opposite end of the meteorological scale — torrential August rains ruining the 1544 harvest.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES WHITE,  
Durborough Farm,  
Aisholt, Spaxton,  
Bridgwater, Somerset.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Limits of UN resolution on embargo against Iraq

enjoying their protection from a militant Iran.

As so often before, the Americans rush to the defence of reactionary and corrupt ruling elites, exploiting their people, and this time, regrettably, our Prime Minister leaps to their support. It is not surprising that most other Arab potentates, feeling themselves equally threatened, also oppose Saddam Hussein, but I suspect that 90 per cent of their subjects support his invasion and crusade.

What does it matter to us from whom we buy the oil? Is it not better that the revenues be used to benefit the teeming millions of Iraqi, Palestinian, Egyptian and Iranian poor, than a handful of autocratic sheiks?

Yours faithfully,  
E. P. CARLISLE,  
Pewseywood, Llanigon,  
Hay-on-Wye, via Hereford.

August 11.

From Mr Ron Footer

Sir, What hope is there for the progress of the world if a London Times correspondent, Barbara Amiel, thinks that Saddam Hussein is not mad but a great conqueror?

Yours sincerely,  
R. FOOTER,  
24 Bowfield Avenue,  
Bexleyheath, Kent.

August 14.

From Mr Michael Upton

Sir, Given Saddam Hussein's treatment of his subjects in Kurdistan, your report (August 10) that Arabs see him as a modern Saladin would be read there with grim irony. Saladin was a Kurd.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL UPTON,  
59 Bellwood Road,  
Milton Bridge, Midlothian.

August 10.

### Population control

From Mr A. G. Trevenen James

Sir, Baroness Elles asserts (August 11) that "poverty is the real evil" in the Third World, "not overpopulation". Why is it, then, that India with GNP about three times and population 200 times that of Norway has a per capita income of only \$270 and abysmal poverty while Norway has a per capita income of \$17,200 and no discernible poverty?

Sadly, over-population is both a cause and a result of poverty. These two Third World problems will either be resolved together or not at all.

Yours faithfully,  
TREVENEN JAMES,  
Flat 7,  
125 Harley Street, W1.

August 11.

### Reduced budget

From the Leader of Greenwich Council

Sir, Greenwich Council was forced to reduce its budget by over £10 million as a result of Government imposed poll tax-capping.

Education accounts for about 50 per cent of the council's spending, but savings in the education budget made up less than 15 per cent of the total council budget reductions.



## COURT CIRCULAR

HM YACHT BRITANNIA  
August 15: Today is the Anniversary of the Birthday of The Princess Royal.

Captain Giles Bassett was received by The Queen at the Castle of Mey, when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of Member of the Royal Victorian Order.

Mr James Cameron and Mr Donald McCarthy were also received by The Queen at the Castle of Mey, when Her Majesty decorated them with the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).

CLARENCE HOUSE  
August 15: Queen Elizabeth was in attendance.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.P. Baron and Mrs B.C. Tomkies  
The engagement is announced between Mark, youngest son of Mrs K. Baron and the late Mr J. Baron, of Porbald, Lancashire, and Rebecca, youngest daughter of Mr A.R.W. Tomkies and the late Mrs P.J. Tomkies, of Frimton-on-Sea, Essex.

Mr M.L. Beale and Miss R.M. Swire  
The engagement is announced between Martin, son of Dr and Mrs N.L. Beale, of Godshill, Isle of Wight, and Rebecca, daughter of Sir John and Lady Swire, of Selling, Kent.

Mr J.W. Billingham and Miss H.G. Birch  
The engagement is announced between Jonathan Wesley, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. Billingham of Dingley Dale, and Heather Giesen, daughter of Dr and Mrs J. Birch, of Bramston, "in-laws". The wedding will take place on Saturday, March 30, 1991, in Bramston Parish.

Mr C.P. Hoskyns and Miss V.N. Carter  
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of the late Mr and Mrs Charles (Hopp) Hopkinson, of Blackheath, London, and Victoria, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Carter, of Vasterne Manor, Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire.

Mr C.J. Lampton and Miss J. Morris  
The engagement is announced between Christopher, youngest son of Major Charles and Lady Elizabeth Lambton, of Caisone, Wiltshire, and Julie, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs J.K.W. Morris, of Aberdeen.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will disembark from HMY Britannia at Aberdeen at 10.15; will open the Bon Accord Centre in Aberdeen at 10.25; and will arrive at Balmoral Castle at 12.40.

## Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Ralph Thoresby, antiquary, Leeds, 1658; Catherine Cockburn, dramatist, London, 1679; Arthur Cayley, mathematician, Richmond, Surrey, 1821; Juliet Lafourge, poet, Montevideo, 1860; Dame Mary Gilmore, poet, Goulburn, New South Wales, 1865; George Heyer, historical novelist, London, 1902.

DEATHS: Jacques Bernoulli, mathematician, Basel, 1705; Ramakrishna, teacher and writer, Calcutta, 1886; Jean Martin Charcot, physician, Paris, France, 1893; Robert Burns, chemist, Heidelberg, 1899; Umberto Soccioni, sculptor, Verona, 1916; Sir Joseph Lockyer, astronomer, Salcombe Regis, Devon, 1920; Babe Ruth, baseball player, New York, 1948; Louis Jourdan, actor, Paris, 1951; Wanda Landowska, harpsichordist, 1959; Selman Wakeman, discoverer of streptomycin, Nobel laureate, 1952; Miss Elizabeth Lambton, of Caisone, Wiltshire, and Julie, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs J.K.W. Morris, of Aberdeen.

Luncheon

Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development, was host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House yesterday in honour of the High Commissioner for Ghana.

## Birthdays today

Mr Menachem Begin, former Prime Minister of Israel, 77; Mr M.G. Bird, chairman, Variety Holdings, 69; the Right Rev Ronald Bowly, Bishop of Oxford, 64; Sir Philip Dowson, architect, 66; Sir David Gillmore, diplomat, 56; Miss Katharine Hamnett, fashion designer, 43; Mr Ted Hughes, poet laureate, 60; Sir Donald Maitland, civil servant and dip-

## Latest wills

Mr Gilbert Becket Arthur Williams, of Weybridge, Surrey, chartered architect, for 19 years chairman of the technical panel of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, and responsible for the conservation of many important buildings, left estate valued at £223,740 net. He left £50 to the First Church of Christ Scientist, Boston, USA, and £10 each to the Architects' Benevolent Society, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and the RNL.

Mr John Basil Goodacre, of North Chailey, East Sussex, who died on May 18, left estate valued at £427,749 net. He left his estate to his wife Mrs Florence Elizabeth Goodacre, who died on June 30, leaving estate valued at £680,512 net. She left personal legacies totalling £32,000, £10,000 to Batter-

## OBITUARIES

## DOROTHY MACKAILL

Dorothy Mackail, British-born leading lady of American silent films, died on August 12 in Hawaii at the age of 87. She was born in 1903.

AFTER a precocious childhood in which she had already shown signs of a talent for acting Dorothy Mackail ran away from home in Hull, where her father was a small tradesman, and arrived in London at the age of 14 bent on becoming an actress. Her leaving home finally persuaded her father that joining him in his small business was clearly not the right course in life for her and he agreed to pay for the singing and dancing lessons which helped her on her way to fame. Her striking appearance gained her a part in *Joy Beets* at the Hippodrome where she was the youngest girl in the show. She also had her first film role in *The Face at the Window*. Later she went to Paris where she spent a season, appearing in a musical revue with Maurice Chevalier.

From Paris she went to New York where she brazened her way into the presence of Florenz Ziegfeld who was apparently so overwhelmed by the sheer cheek of her introduction to him, that he accepted her as a chorine in his Ziegfeld Follies. She became one of his most famous Ziegfeld girls of the Twenties. The great showman had no compunction about introducing her to audiences as another of his "typical American girls" in spite of the fact that her Hull upbringing had left her with a pronounced Yorkshire accent which she made no attempt to eradicate.

After a few years with Ziegfeld, she was cast in the John Barrymore film *Lotus Eater* and thereafter prospered variously as an ingenue (with long hair) or a flapper (with bobbed hair) in such films as *Streets of New York*, *The Barker*, *The Man Who Came Back*, *Lady Be Good* and many others. She also played

breezy lead roles in comedies and light romances and worked opposite George O'Brien twice and Richard Barthelmess three times.

But she will probably be best remembered for her features with Jack Mulhall, most of which were light comedies. Miss Mackail made a few



early sound pictures, *Love Affair* in 1932 with Humphrey Bogart and the *The Chief* in 1933 with Ed Wynn, but had fallen in love with Hawaii on a visit for a film in 1929 and moved there permanently in 1934 after marrying her third husband, an orchid grower. Her last picture was *Bulldog Drummond at Bay* in 1937 when she made a brief appearance.

In the mid-1970s — to honour her devotion to Hawaii — Honolulu declared "Dorothy's Day" and serenaded and praised her at her hotel, an occasion she loved every minute of.

## ELVIRA RONÉ

Elvira Roné, a Russian dancer and teacher of ballet, has died in Paris at the age of 88.

ELVIRA Roné's claim to fame was as one of the last personal links with the old Russian Imperial School of Ballet, but she was still only a young pupil there when the first world war broke out and her dancing career was almost entirely outside Russia. Although born in St Petersburg, she was taken very young to Latvia and appeared as a child actress in the theatre at Riga. However, she went back to St Petersburg to enter the famous ballet school in Theatre Street where such stars as Pavlova and Nijinsky had been educated. Olga Preobrazhenskaya, who had become the prima ballerina of the Imperial Ballet, began teaching during Roné's time at the school and the young pupil treasured lifelong memories of her lessons.

On graduating, Roné joined the ballet company in the former Maryinsky Theatre, but did not stay long because Mr and Mrs John Williams-Ellis, of Carrera, Leon, Portugal, North Wales, and Miss Serena Stapleton, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Stapleton, of Arnhatwaite Place, Arnhatwaite, Cumbria. The Rev Humphrey Southern officiated, assisted by Father Walter Maxwell Stuart, OSB.

The bride who was given away in marriage by her father, was attended by Lady Tamara and Lady Edwina Grosvenor, Katie Liddell, Alexandra, Laura and Lucy Brooke, Alice Macmillan, the Hon William Kay-Sainte-Wolfe, Harry Stapleton and Orlando Compton. Mr Christopher Musgrave was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in the Caribbean.

Mr D.H.M. Williams-Ellis and Miss S.J.C. Stapleton

The marriage took place on Saturday at St Nicholas' Church, Leiston, Suffolk, son of Mr and Mrs David Williams-Ellis, son of the late Mr and Mrs John Williams-Ellis, of Carrera, Leon, Portugal, North Wales, and Miss Serena Stapleton, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Stapleton, of Arnhatwaite Place, Arnhatwaite, Cumbria. The Rev Humphrey Southern officiated, assisted by Father Walter Maxwell Stuart, OSB.

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## Deadly smoke or load of hot air?

The vaporising of dental fillings during cremation may cause high levels of mercury pollution, a scientist warns

A newly launched theory that British crematoria are releasing potentially harmful amounts of toxic mercury vapour into the atmosphere looks set to ignite what, on the face of it, could turn into the most macabre environmental debate of the year.

The unlikely source of the alleged problem is the mercury-based alloy that has been used to fill decaying teeth for almost 200 years. According to Dr Alan Mills, of Leicester University, the temperatures inside crematorium furnaces are high enough to evaporate dental mercury. Assuming that, by the time they die, most adults in Britain own at least five mercury-based fillings, the total amount of toxic mercury vapour being spirited into the atmosphere by crematoria could constitute an environmental hazard, he warns.

Expounding his concerns in today's issue of *Nature*, Dr Mills calculates that the chimney of a typical busy city crematorium, in Leicester, where more than 3,000 bodies are cremated annually, could be pumping out as much as 11kg of dental mercury a year. Mercury is toxic in minute amounts — the prescribed upper limit for atmospheric mercury is less than a millionth of a gram per cubic metre.

Medical opinion has long held that mercury-based fillings pose little threat to the health of their living owners. Although some mercury probably evaporates when old fillings are drilled out for replacements, the amount released is so tiny that it is unlikely to cause problems.

But the fillings of the dead could, if Dr Mills is right, pose an altogether more serious threat. "It could be that it is not a hazard at all, but I don't know why it would not be," he says. His chief aim is to persuade the Environmental Health Authority to investigate the magnitude of the "possible problem", a mission that could be accomplished only by installing equipment to monitor trace emissions of

mercury inside a crematorium chimney. So far, concern has been expressed in official quarters but no money has emerged to pay for a monitoring experiment.

In The Netherlands, where a shortage of burial land makes cremation essential, many crematorium chimneys are being fitted with filtration devices.

But the Federation of British Cremation Authorities is unruffled. "We are very much geared to avoiding emissions, particularly visible ones, which could prove upsetting to members of the public," says Peter Wilson, the organisation's secretary. He is sceptical about the dental fillings claim and says that ultimately it will be for Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution to decide whether there is a real problem or not.

It can be applied to prose or poetry, to the sublimities of a sonnet or the darknesses of a police confession and it threatens to transform many old arguments about the integrity of texts. The researchers have already applied it to samples of Greek text, to the Federalist Papers written by the framers of the American Constitution and to a doubtful Shakespeare sonnet.

Mr Morton says he has also found inconsistencies in the confessions of the men who went to jail for the murder of Carl Bridgewater and in the confessions that convicted the Birmingham Six. If the value of the method as evidence of authorship can be proved to the satisfaction of the courts, it might become as useful in forensic science as the fingerprint.

Curiously, the method works as well with transcripts of speech as it does with written text. The way in which individuals speak or write appears to be ingrained, unchanging and inimitable.

Mr Morton was, until his recent retirement, a minister in the Church of Scotland. Parallel to his ministry has been a scholarly career as a student of classical Greek and of biblical texts. For the past 20 years he and his colleague Professor Michaelson have been searching for a systematic way of analysing texts.

The problem is to find a way in which the characteristic habits of different writers can be teased out and displayed. These habits could be the length of sentences, the frequency of occurrence of nouns, or of short words.

More than 30 years ago, W.C. Wake, the industrial scientist, showed that different writers of classical Greek do produce sentences of characteristically different

The courts may be interested in a new test that shows your use of language is as individual as a fingerprint, Nigel Hawkes reports



Comparing styles: Andrew Morton searching for inconsistencies

lengths. His method, unfortunately, worked much less well in English, where the difference between writers was too small to make discrimination possible.

Now it is worth while simply to count the occurrence of a word or group of words, for it has been shown that most words occur at different rates in different kinds of sentences. A sample of dialogue, with shorter sentences, would throw up a different rate of occurrence of the word chosen.

To be effective, any analytical method must take account of the length of sentences. The measurement of the frequency of occurrence of any word must be seen in the context of the length of the sentence in which that word appears. The method used at Edinburgh to do this is called a cumulative sum chart, or cusum chart for short.

The first stage is to prepare a chart of sentence length. This is done by calculating the average sentence length in the sample of prose, then

counting the number of words by which every successive sentence is either greater or less than the average. These differences are then added together in succession to form a cumulative sum. The cusum values are then plotted on graph paper, with the sentence number as the horizontal axis and the cusum as the vertical axis.

The next stage is to analyse in the same way the occurrence of words within the sentences. Suppose, for example, that an individual's use of two- or three-letter words is absolutely consistent. The cusum chart measuring the frequency of such words will have exactly the same shape as the chart of sentence length. Printed on transparent paper and appropriately scaled, the two charts will lie more or less exactly on top of each other.

What happens if, in the middle of a piece of text by one author, there are inserted a few sentences by another whose habits are different? Then the two charts will diverge: no

amount of manoeuvring will persuade them to coincide. This, in essence, is the method used by Mr Morton and Professor Michaelson.

It produces some striking results. First, it shows that writers do acquire and maintain a consistent style, whatever life may throw at them. Sir Walter Scott's style in *The Antiquary*, published in 1816, is entirely consistent with his style in *Castle Dangerous*, written after he had suffered three strokes, one of which left his speech and movement impaired.

Similarly, the Thomas Hardy of *The Hand of Ethelberta* (written in 1876) is demonstrably the same as the author of *Jude the Obscure*, written in 1891-93. Yet, if a chunk of Hardy is combined with a passage from Scott, the divergent curves immediately show the mixed authorship of the combination.

One of the attractive features of the method is that it is good at picking up small anomalies in an otherwise consistent piece of text,

one of the hardest tasks for traditional literary detectives. At, or near, the point where the foreign material has been inserted, the two curves will diverge sharply before returning to a similar shape. It is impossible to specify exactly where the insertion has been made, but it can be done within a sentence or two.

It can also distinguish attempts to imitate a writer's style, even when the imitation is skilful enough to convince the casual reader. Jane Austen's unfinished novel, *Sanditon*, which stops abruptly at sentence 73 of Chapter 11, was later completed in a polished pastiche of the Austen style by an author who described herself simply as "Another Lady". The point at which Austen left off and the other lady began is impossible to distinguish by reading the novel; but the cusum plots show a clear divergence at this point. The differences are not large, but they are absolutely clear.

Applications of the method are obvious. Mr Morton is keen to apply it to disowned confessions, which he says are often a mix of styles: "Partly what the police want him to say, partly what others have said." Applied to the confession of Timothy Evans, hanged in the 1950s for a murder committed by John Christie, the method shows that the first 40 sentences are consistent, the next 40 a confusion of styles, and the last 40 recognisably Evans's but with intrusions in another style.

He has also worked on more recent cases, examining the confessions in the Carl Bridgewater and the Birmingham Six cases, none of which appear to be written in a consistent style. He has investigated recent claims by Americans of a "new" Shakespeare sonnet (he doubts them) and studied the poems of Robert Burns. Checking a claim by Iris Murdoch that she consciously uses a different style in writing philosophy than in her novels, he shows that it is less different than she supposes.

Mr Morton does not expect to be embraced by the literary critics for his contribution to their art. He has mostly found his claims ignored or laughed at, perhaps because few literary critics have any training in science or statistics.

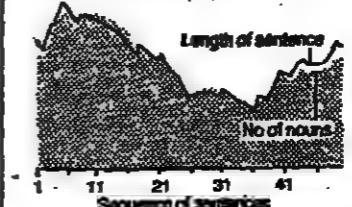
That is one reason why he has devised his new method, which requires no statistical knowledge. "It is flexible and sensitive, and judgments can be made by eye, laying one chart on top of another," he says. An interesting test will be to see whether the courts are willing to accept his evidence, and what credence they accord it.

## Discovering the truth in a word

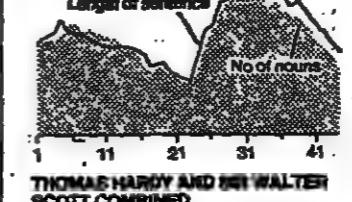
The courts may be interested in a new test that shows your use of language is as individual as a fingerprint, Nigel Hawkes reports

ANALYSING A LITERARY STYLE  
TWO SAMPLES OF SIR WALTER SCOTT

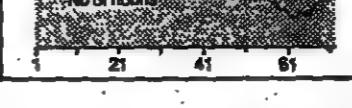
The first 25 sentences are taken from *The Antiquary*, published in 1816, and the next 25 sentences from *Castle Dangerous*, published 15 years later



TWO SAMPLES OF THOMAS HARDY  
The first 22 sentences are taken from *The Hand of Ethelberta*, written in 1876, and the next 22 sentences from *Jude the Obscure*, published in 1891



THOMAS HARDY AND SIR WALTER SCOTT COMBINED  
Putting together extracts from the two authors clearly shows that they cannot have been written by the same person



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# Cry Woolf, and watch the eyes glaze over

The Virginia Woolf industry rolls on, Victoria Glendinning reports, but the queen of Bloomsbury can still dazzle

Why does the heart not lift? Why is your eye, even now, veering from this column to something, anything, that has nothing to do with Virginia Woolf and Bloomsbury? The admirers and executors and publishers of Woolf and the Bloomsbury group have very nearly killed the goose that laid the golden eggs.

The general reading public, in the 1970s and early 1980s, fell in with the many volumes of Woolf's letters and diaries with delight, and on all and any biographical material about her, her family and friends, with a greedy and sometimes prurient appetite. The interest was largely a gossip interest. Some people who knew all about the intricate relationships between these people had only a nodding acquaintance with her work and may never have looked at a painting by Vanessa Bell. Never can any group have been so fully documented and discussed – first by themselves, conveniently, and then by posterity. For some, Bloomsbury became an industry, for others a cult and, for some, in the end, a pain in the neck.

Woolf's writing remains the only justification for the circus to go on. We are moving into a new phase. She comes out of copyright next year, which is the signal for a flood of new publications. The Hogarth Press, founded by Virginia and Leonard Woolf in 1917, is getting in first with this "Definitive Collected Edition" – all nine of the novels (*Between the Acts*, *Jacob's Room*, *Mrs Dalloway*, *Night and Day*, *Orlando*, *To the Lighthouse*, *The Voyage Out*, *The Waves*, *The Years*), plus a reprint of the biography of 1972 by her

nephew Quentin Bell. Already out from Hogarth are single-volume selections from her letters and diaries and next month, in the same celebratory series, her hitherto unpublished girlhood diaries. Mr Bell's biography still reads very well and has the immediacy and authority that only he could provide. But nepotic discretion may have blurred some edges. Chatto has commissioned a new biography from Hermione Lee.

The nine novels in the Hogarth set are scholarly editions, the different editors listing variants at the end and, in the case of *The Voyage Out*,

**THE NOVELS OF VIRGINIA WOOLF**  
Hogarth Press, £180 the set  
**VIRGINIA WOOLF: A Biography**  
By Quentin Bell  
Hogarth Press, £25

substantial revisions made by the author herself at different stages. The un-academic, thoughtful introductions, however, are in every case either by

Mr Bell himself or his half-sister Angelica Garnett. This publishing programme represents the last throw of the old guardians of the flame.

For, with the ending of copyright, the descendants and Hogarth Press are no longer in control of the field. Blackwell is preparing to bring out its own hardback edition of the nine Woolf novels. They will also be coming out in Penguin, and from the Oxford University Press in the paperback World's Classics series. This flood of republishing means 27 new introductions, not to mention notes, and not to mention parallel republishing packages of Woolf's shorter fiction and non-fiction. Lots of jobs for the boys, or rather, for the girls.

The circus has moved on. Bloomsbury may no longer be the imaginary playground of the chartering classes, which is probably just as well both for them and



The heart of the Bloomsbury industry: Virginia Woolf's writing is the only justification for the circus.

for Bloomsbury, but Woolf is big in women's studies and feminist criticism. Who shall deny Woolf wrote in *Jacob's Room*, that in certain respects "every woman is nicer than any man"? Certainly not me. Yet it is ironic that one who insisted on the androgyny of art should become monopolised by the ghetto.

It is ideologically correct to study the lives and the writing of working-class women, but there is not enough of it about, for obvious sociological reasons. Woolf did not understand uneducated

people at all, and the elitist aspect of Bloomsbury is a difficulty; but, like Sylvia Plath, Woolf has become the locus for investigations of the woman writer as abused, victimised and suicidal. Male-induced pathology and psychosis are the focus, and the fertile potential of relationships with other women: a study of the creative intimacy between Virginia and her sister Vanessa is forthcoming (by Jane Dunn), and between Virginia and Vita Sackville-West (by Suzanne Raitt).

But whatever the abuse of the

goose, the eggs remain golden. Open one of these beautifully produced volumes anywhere and, dazzled and intrigued, you have to go on reading. Then consider the effect of sex – how between a man and a woman it hangs wavy, tremulous, so that here's a valley, there's a peak, when in truth, perhaps, all's as flat as my hand. Even the exact words get the wrong accent on them. But something is always impelling one to hum vibrating, like the hawk moth, at the mouth of the cavern of mystery ...

SHARON Rabbitts has a little problem. Or rather she will have, in six months. It's one that the citizens of north Dublin are well used to. They're a lusty, broadminded lot, with a terrible sense of humour. So when Sharon digs her heels in, and refuses to name the father, Barrytown is soon humming with speculation.

Surely it cannot have been the visiting Spanish sailor? He's long gone, never to return, and hence unavailable for ribbing. Much more to the people's taste is said old George Burgess, father of Sharon's friend Yvonne. So when he deserts Doria, his wife of 24 years, and begins to bombard the burgeoning young Rabbitts with inopportune pink notes, it is hardly to be wondered at that Jimmy Rabbitts sen. comes home from the Hikers' Nest with a bloody nose.

Jimmy's in a bit of a tizzy. He's a cheery soul and loving father, so whatever suits Sharon is fine with him. True, chez Rabbitts is not exactly underpopulated already, what with Leo, Darren, Jimmy jun. and the twins Linda and Tracey. But there'll be room enough for Sharon and her snap-

## Scaling comedy's heights

John Nicholson

**THE SNAPPER**  
By Roddy Doyle  
Secker & Warburg, £11.95  
**BEDROCK**  
By Lisa Alther  
Viking, £13.99  
**SUN BUBBLE**  
By Jane Gaskell  
Wiedenfeld & Nicolson, £13.50

per. The Rabbitts are a noisy, turbulent household with passionate, changing enthusiasms. One day the twins are set on becoming drum majorettes, the next they are on the road to stardom as ballroom dancers. Only Veronica Rabbitts, their mother – and wardrobe mistress – suffers. And when Darren loses his place on the football squad, the Barrytown Wheelies Under 14 team is created overnight. Their coach may not understand the workings of a stopwatch, but

Jimmy Rabbitts is not a man to worry about details.

Teacher Roddy Doyle's first novel, *The Commitments*, was greeted with near-delirium. It is easy to see why. Mr Doyle has an astonishing talent for turning the humdrum into high comedy. The Rabbitts do no more than other families – they eat, drink, argue, watch telly and wind each other up. But the dialogue of *The Snapper* crackles with wit and authenticity. The characterisation, too, is superbly accomplished. Even the family dog rings true. As a result, you finish the book hungry for more and in no doubt that this is the real McCoy.

Lisa Alther is very different. *Bedrock*, her first novel, *Kirkjubaejarklaustur*, was one of the best book blockbusters of the mid-Seventies. Since then, there have been two others, both commercially successful, but neither moving significantly from the original formula. Miss Alther's heroines tend to be arty women, usually Southerners by birth, who

wrestle with the problems of success in exotic locations. Their own sexuality is always high on the list of problems to be resolved. Bisexuality is the norm, with women on the whole being each other's preferred option. Men are portrayed as something between a necessary evil and messy pets, requiring house training and consistent discipline, and allowed into the bed only when no better companion is available.

*Bedrock* is more ambitious than its predecessor, *Other Women*. Photographer Clea Shaw is uncertain how best to cope with the Empty Nest syndrome. Unnerved by a mugging, she is convinced that New York is no longer her sort of town. Her husband Turner, a marketing vice-president, spends most of his time abroad while her best friend – and former lover – has too many problems of her own to help Clea find the *Bedrock* on which to base the rest of her life. So she heads for the hills.

But will Clea find happiness in smalltown Vermont? There's no shortage of interesting company in Roches Ridge. There's a female bodybuilder and a lesbian commune, a couple of psychopaths and a group of born again fanatics. It goes without saying that the local RC priest is sexually active (well, it worked for Colleen McCullough) and something very unpleasant seems to be going on at the undertaker's. So much for Clea's naive belief in the innocent simplicity of Arcadia. Still, the locals do let her organise a carnival and Elke the sculptress finally overcomes her distaste for rural life, and her reluctance to give their relationship a second go. So things end reasonably happily for Clea.

Which is more than can be said for Julia, the heroine of Jane Gaskell's latest assault on the best seller lists. Julia is another disgruntled child of the Sixties, a magazine journalist with a delinquent daughter, junkie lover and problems with her builders. Sun Bubble is a weird, shapeless book, set in a PR person's vision of contemporary London. The only message I could pick up is that when all else fails, spiritualism may help. Hmm.

## Age-old question of guilt

PAPERBACKS

Tania Glyde

**HAVE THE MEN HAD ENOUGH?**

By Margaret Forster  
Penguin, £4.99

**MRS FRAMPTON**

By Pam Gems  
Bloomsbury, £4.99

**ISLAND PARADISE**

By Kathy Page  
Minerva, £4.50

plot. But in *Mrs Frampton* Pam Gems, author of *Piaf* and *Camille*, has used instead the conversations of inner thought. The heroine is a fine figure of a wife of a retired Bradford businessman whose weak chest has finally forced them to move to Spain. By learning Spanish she gets some enjoyment out of local-watching, and the villa complex is replete with frugal French women and a lone Spanish bachelor. One day she meets May Liu, a rich Hong Kong widow and the whole town's grovelling post. They get on like a house on fire and form a solidarity that overrides all other considerations. Life improves – even Stephanie of

# Black view of London colour

## CRIME

Marcel Berlins

## THE LATE CANDIDATE

By Mike Phillips

Michael Joseph, £12.99

contemporary social and political context and well-drawn characters are, unusually, supported by a plot below his best standards.

• *Admit to Murder*, by Margaret York (Mysterious Press, £11.99). A young woman disappears after choir practice, leaving an assortment of theories and a household teeming with hang-ups. Twelve years later, the young copper in the investigation returns, more senior, to the area, and reopens the case, resulting in a violent outpouring of secrets and skeletons. Ms York's mastery of obsession and claustrophobia well to the fore.

• *Take*, by Bill James (Macmillan, £11.99). Ageing robber plans an easy heist, uneasily partnered by generation gap young team. Old adversary Chief Superintendent Harpur gets hint of the crime, but not the details. The two men play their respective games, carefully, competing for slivers of information about each other's plans. A superior tale of cops and robbers, subtle and riveting to the last page.

• *Sunshine Enemies*, by K.C. Constantine (*Hodder & Stoughton*, £13.95). Small-town top cop Mario Balzic's mother is dying, a dodgy preacher is pressuring him to clamp down on porn mags and a local degenerate is slashed to pieces. Balzic juggles his emotions and professionalism to satisfying outcome. As usual, cracklingly authentic dialogue and as-really-as-storylines. No diminution of Mr Constantine's top-drawer skills.

• *Shadows in Bremen*, by Lindsey Davis (Sedgwick & Jackson, £13.95). Ancient Rome's own private eye, Marcus Didius Falco, in his second adventure, this time as a sort of tec to the Emperor Vespasian, trying to ward off imperial and personal enemies while pursuing his own amorous and occasionally devious schemes. Falco is a charming rogue, and Rome adapts easily to being kind of AD 70 Los Angeles. It's fun, and I don't care whether or not it's historically authentic.

• *A City of Strangers*, by Robert Barnard (Banana Press, £12.99). Lout, foulmouth and drunk Jack Phelan has won the pools and threatens to move his egregious family into the respectable part of town. Appalled future neighbours plot to stop him; then he dies in a deliberately started blaze. Mr Barnard's usual talents for precise

shorthand of the lesser length

and escaping from their stereotypes. Ripley, Keating, Loveseay, Fraser (Lady A) and Symons among the 16.

• *John Creasy's Crime Collection 1990*, edited by Herbert Harris (Gollancz, £12.95). Annual proof that the crime short story is not about to die, with the usual galaxy of blood-and-inches showing off their command of the lesser length and escaping from their stereotypes. Ripley, Keating, Loveseay, Fraser (Lady A) and Symons among the 16.

• *Saturday Review*

Head that rolled

David Puttnam came, saw and was conquered by Hollywood. His failure is the subject of a sobering new book by Charles Kippis

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Val Hennessey, Daily Mail

He is one of the few writers taking forward the tradition of the great supernatural storytellers – and being innovative.  
London Evening Standard

**JAMES HERBERT**  
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## CRITICS' CHOICE

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

**THE ACCIDENTAL TOURIST** (Warner, PG): Rewarding, deitly textured version of Anne Tyler's novel about a husband's slow recovery from life's slings and arrows; a change of pace for the *Body Heat* team of William Hurt, Kathleen Turner, and director Lawrence Kasdan. 1989.

**A DRY WHITE SEASON** (MGM/UA, 1951): Powerful trailer fashioned from Andre Brink's novel, with Donald Sutherland as a mild schoolteacher waking up to apartheid's horrors, and Marion Brando in an eccentric cameo as a weary civil rights lawyer. Director, Elizabet Pacy. 1990.

**EARTH GIRLS ARE EASY** (MGM/UA, PG): Flimsy but enjoyable garnish, musical satire from *Absolute Beginners* director Julian Temple about an alien spaceship, eager for female delights, crashing in the San Fernando Valley. Droll performances from Geena Davis and Jeff Goldblum. 1989.

**FAR NORTH** (Vestron, 1981): Writer Sam Shepard's awkward directorial debut, a teeth-grating, high-decibel rural melodrama, wearily down with words and symbols, with Jessica Lange as the city girl returning to her rural roots for a family war of wills. 1989.

**GORILLAS IN THE MIST** (Warner, 1985): A powerful performance from Sigourney Weaver as anthropologist Dian Fossey, living with gorillas in central Africa, though the narrative could do with extra oomph. Bryan Brown passes through as the old-fashioned love interest. 1989.

**LAUREL AND HARDY** (Virgin, 1985): Cinema's most adorable comedians in three bargain-priced videos. *A Chump at Oxford* (1940) shows the magic starting to fade, but the other two bundle up six of their very best shorts (mostly silent): *Two Tars, Men o' War, Battle of the Century, The Finishing Touch, You're Darn Tootin' and Toward a Hole*.

**SAMSON AND DELILAH** (CIC, 1949): Biblical phoney from the master, Cecil B. DeMille, with cardboard sets, a stoned lion, silly dialogue, and two stars chosen largely for their physiques (Victor Mature, Hedy Lamarr); Greatly entertaining. 1949.

**SUPERMAN** (Warner, 1948): Columbia's 1948 serial, starring Kirk Alyn as the Man of Steel, flying round Metropolis with the obvious help of the studio's animation department. Also, the short feature *Superman and the Mole Men* (1951, U), starring George Reeves — more low-budget fun, less flippant in tone than the subsequent television series.

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHERIFF** (Warner, PG): Burt Kennedy's deliciously spod Western, with James Garner on top, deadpan form as the new sheriff bringing a lawless town to heel. Sharp writing by William Bowers, boisterously performed. 1968. *Support Your Local Gunfighter* (1971, U), a disappointing sequel, is also available.

GEFF BROWN

## CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

# Receding hair, diminishing returns

Geoff Brown reviews *Die Hard 2, Mignon Has Left, Out Cold* and an exhibition at London's Museum of the Moving Image

**P**laying cat and mouse with the vicious terrorists who grab control of Washington airport on Christmas Eve, Bruce Willis mutters, "Man, I can't believe this. Another Christmas. Another basement. Another elevator. How can this happen to the same guy twice?" Willis's character, Detective John McClane, is obviously no moviegoer, otherwise he would be tediously familiar with Hollywood's sequel mania. *Die Hard*, the story of the reluctant McClane's absurd battle with terrorist invaders of a Los Angeles office block, notched up sizeable profits at the world's box offices during the winter of 1988. Since Hollywood can only match one film's success by duplicating the winning ingredients, another ruined Christmas for McClane was inevitable.

So here we are, faced with *Die Hard 2* (15, Odeon, Leicester Square). A new batch of terrorists plan to intercept the arrival of a Norwegia-type dictator, transported to the United States for prosecution on drugs charges. McClane is on hand to meet his wife arriving on an internal flight; but her plane, along with many others, spends most of the film desperately circling with dwindling fuel above a paralysed airport.

Armed with a fancy gun, plus an infinite capacity for being bludgeoned, squashed, and hurled from high places, McClane tries to pin down the terrorist's HQ. After each bruising encounter with the enemy's firepower he staggers free, increasingly covered in the makeup of man's very best blood. Along the way, a plane from London (belonging to "Windstar Airways", no less) collides with the runway after being fed the wrong data, crashing into a pretty fireball. To make matters cheerier, skies and landscapes are clogged with a deluge of snow and ice. Excess is the name of the game.

*John McTiernan*, the director of the original *Die Hard*, kept such a grip on the high-rose action that the story's implausibility could be safely ignored until the end credits. Spanish director Remy Julian (leaping into the big-budget squadron after *A Nightmare on Elm Street 4*) is less fortunate. An early set-to among a labyrinth of baggage conveyor belts firmly establishes his frenetic style. But without the support of a sturdy storyline, the splashy array of

visceral excitements — matched to a bombastic music score one can scarcely hear for gunfire, squeals and crashes — steadily withers on the vine.

Part of the trouble lies with the story's origins: a novel by Walter Wager called *58 Minutes*, originally destined for a separate film but diverted into a Bruce Willis vehicle by the simple need to justify a prospective budget of \$40 million (£21 million). The rewrite was plainly superficial. Both McClane's wife (Bonnie Bedelia) and the obnoxious television newscaster played by William Atherton have the pinched feeling of characters shoehorned into the script; while McClane, the bemused cop in the wrong place at the right time, has shed some individuality to become just another dogged action man: Rambo with a receding hairline.

Surrounding characters are cut from the same tired cloth: the ice-cold mercenary with Jack Palance cheekbones, the blustering, foot-dragging airport security chief, the surprisingly plucky chief engineer. For all the state-of-the-art violence and Bruce Willis's star presence, we might almost be back in the Seventies, watching one of the ludicrous *Airport* series. This is no way to guarantee *Die Hard 3*.

Admirers allergic to Hollywood's summer blockbusters do not, at the moment, have much else to chew on. *Mignon Has Left* (12, Metro), a first feature by a young Italian director, Francesca Archibugi, offers nothing but flimsy pleasures. These are mostly sparked by Stefania Sandrelli's buoyant performance as a hard-pressed mamma coping with one of those messy but lovable movie families. Italians, at least, have clutched the film to their bosoms in 1989. *Mignon Has Left* won five local "Oscars".

Mamma Forbicioni rules over five wayward children in a disorderly Rome apartment; father is mostly absent at his second-hand bookshop, pursuing an affair with the cashier. Enter *Mignon*, an aloof, 15-year-old niece from Paris, forced to stay with these middle-class relatives when her father, a builder, is imprisoned for using sub-standard materials. *Mignon*'s cold, scornful manner wins her no friends, except cousin Giorgio: bespectacled, studious, lonely, sensitive, and a sitting target for Cupid's arrow. Sandrelli radiates lightness and

grace as the harassed mother, always trying to put her best smile forward; young Leonardo Ruta makes a creditable fist of the lovelorn Giorgio. But for the plot to work properly, *Mignon*'s predicament must inspire a modicum of sympathy, and Céline Beauvallet's sullen performance never gives us a chance to take her character to heart. Throughout, Archibugi's handling is fluent, though unremarkable, apart from a cloying close-up of one of *Mignon*'s tears, which Giorgio tenderly navigates with his finger and lifts to his lips. I can just imagine *Mignon Has Left* as a restaurant dessert: thin, flaky pastry, a filling rich in additives, and possibly a glazed cherry.

**A**udiences outside the London area have the option of feasting on *Out Cold* (15), a forlorn, unfunny slab of black comedy filmed in Canada several years ago and misguidedly taken off the shelves. The unfortunate director is Britain's Malcolm Mowbray, who scored brightly enough in 1984 with Alan Bennett's tale of a contraband Yorkshire pig, *A Private Function*. But not even Woody Allen or all four Marx Brothers could make a silk purse from this sow's ear of a script about the intrigue surrounding an odious, small-town butcher, frozen to death among his carcasses.

Throughout, Mowbray and his photographer, Tony Pierce-Roberts, pursue a drab, realistic look in the vain hope of bolstering their shoddy material. But the cold shafts of light and peeling interiors only heighten the unpalatable sight of decent performers (John Lithgow, Teri Garr, Randy Quaid) sinking in the dialogue's mire. This film, with *Killing Dad and Consuming Passions*, forms a terrible trio that bludgeons the art of black comedy almost to death.

When current films get too depressing, there is always the past to contemplate. Until September 12, the Museum of the Moving Image, under Waterloo Bridge, houses a travelling exhibition of Warner Brothers artefacts grandly entitled *Dream Merchants: Making and Selling Films in Hollywood's Golden Age*. Isolated items stimulate and charm: the image of animals being marched two by two onto their sound stage for the 1936 *Green Pastures*, a fascinating



Bruce Willis in *Die Hard*: Bemused cop in the wrong place at the right time, again

breakdown of studio jobs, with "Director (Motion Picture)" a whisker away from "Dish Washer". Yet the cumulative effect is desultory: too many photographs are too small, or too ordinary, while the bland captions, pock-marked with mis-

pellings, serve to puff the old studio system rather than give an incisive modern overview.

These faults cannot be laid entirely at the MOMI's door as the show originated in America at the International Museum of Photography, George Eastman House.

But they highlight a continuing MOMI problem: how to entice the public to revisit the museum for its yearly handful of changing displays. As long as there remains no way to avoid the overall admission charge of £3.95, a limp little exhibit is not the answer.

## TELEVISION

## Wider audience, narrower compass of small screen

**SEXUAL** abuse of children has taken over from the banished baby as the dire crime of our time. Wider-spread up the classes, too, for it was possible to think babies were battered by uncouth, unemployable step-fathers with unphotogenic faces or sotish mothers confusing their offspring with astrophys. Lucy Gannon's *Screenplay*, *Keeping Tom Nice* (BBC 2), found a way of focusing both crimes upon a single victim and added the twist of making him a spastic, epileptic, incontinent 24-year-old, slumped on his airbed, wheelchair or bean-bag and over-attended by his parents. "Keeping him nice" was his mum's bright little, tight little

phrase for it; keeping him clean, fed and, crucially, keeping him for themselves.

The effect of this devotion upon Doug, the stricken father, was rendered more intriguing by casting John Alderton in the role. His more familiar television persona, currently to be seen in the Sunday repeats of *Forever Green*, is of a slightly quirky but, under it all, warm and tender-hearted bumbler. Put a crumpled hat on his head, stick a pipe in his mouth and he would pass for Monsieur Hulot.

With this in mind, the scene when he tries to stop Tom's nighty howling by bashing his head down against the pillows came, inevitably, as a jolt. Doug's

faculties were clearly unhinged from the start, snapping at his college-educated daughter, belligerent towards the wary young social worker who has noticed marks on Tom's wrists; but the pent-up rage and disappointment released in the attack (instantly followed by grief) triggered feelings of alarm whenever father and son were alone thereafter.

Originally a stage play, or *Stagey*, as the BBC would probably call it, the events seemed awkwardly compressed this time around.

The time-span of Doug's eventual crack-up was effectively shortened into four or five brief scenes at Tom's bedside, but earlier episodes contained more

cherries than cake. Under Louise Panton's direction, the cross-cutting between Tom's sister (Henrietta Bess) — "I want to get you away" — and the social worker (Sean Chapman) — "I want to get him away" — suggested identity of concern. Yet while Tom's evident delight when she bounces on his loins could be accepted as jolly sibling fun, the later fondling she encouraged needed a lot more context than the author supplied.

At least these characters came across as credible and all of a piece; likewise Linus Roache as the contorted victim with sharply in-turned hands like the flowers of streptocarpus. With Tom's mother, the characterisation came

awry. Played by the splendid Gwen Taylor with the right mask-like indifference to reality, she was required to give lucid self-analyses beyond the scope of her faculties. Having commented on her daughter's way with words as though it was a sin against the Holy Ghost, her self-definition as a choreographed ballerina revealed the perceptive skills of the author, not of an emotionally dishonest mum.

In the theatre there was time and space for this to feel right. As so often, the one-hour slot on television is a Procrustean bed for stage drama.

JEREMY KINGSTON

## In touch with Mother Russia

Violinist Vladimir Spivakov, Proms débutant, talks to Hilary Finch

**O**ne of the indelible images left by last year's Proms was that of Yuri Bashmet performing the Schubert Violin Concerto. It was the year of Bashmet, founder of the Moscow Soloists, in Britain.

This year, the Proms are to be visited by a parallel phenomenon: the violinist, Vladimir Spivakov, and his Moscow Virtuosi. Meeting them recently at Spivakov's own Alsace festival at Colmar, there was a strong sense of *déjà-vu*: the sightseeing between rehearsals, the tacit jokes, the entourage of visiting soloists and friends, the bel canto string playing, the melancholic encores.

Spivakov himself, boyish with short back and sides, may look younger than Bashmet, but he is 45, and founded his group seven years before the Soloists, who were themselves formed only when Bashmet left the Virtuosi.

So far, in Britain, the robust charisma of Bashmet and the Soloists has tended to eclipse Moscow's more sophisticated elder statesmen. The Virtuosi have found a firmer foothold in America. Spivakov currently has no British agent, despite playing as soloist with orchestras such as the English and Scottish Chamber, the London Symphony and the Royal Philharmonic.

He is known primarily through a steady trickle of recordings. After a "disappointment" with the agent Harold Holt, concert engagements are now thin on the ground. Even the Proms have been set up through Columbia Artists in New York.

Spivakov, like Bashmet, is guarded, even defensive, in conversation. Both tell tales of being made to feel the outsider at school and conservatoire. The violinist, Dmitri Sitkovetsky, speaks of how it was made

extremely difficult for Jewish students such as Bashmet and Kremer to meet for chamber music-making. Spivakov's response was to learn boxing at an early age.

In 1975, Spivakov took the first prize at a Montreal competition, under the bow of Gidon Kremer, but "music has never been anything to do with competition for me. This was my way of getting out of the army. No agent, no government body would arrange any work for me." Later, he was to help the pianist prodigy, Evgeny Kissin, to do likewise.

After Montreal, Spivakov was banned from travelling to the West until 1974. Then the composer Kremer decided he wanted a performance in the West of his violin concerto, and a month later, Spivakov was in Italy with Kremer, Svetlanov and the USSR State Symphony. "I faced, for the first time, the reality that the same group of people could decide, at will, my fate, either

way."

After making it clear that he could not spend his life playing one concerto, Spivakov was allowed to go to Bulgaria, Armenia, Hungary and Canada with Mavilsky and the Leningrad Philharmonic. The vice-president of Columbia Artists invited him to New York. His solo recital debut in 1975 was met with a standing ovation half-way through.

When, four years later, Spivakov founded the Moscow Virtuosi, *Moscow News* was to write: "This small collective farm of musicians earned as much in one year as two or three large collective farms, due to their highly skilled labour in the concert halls of Europe." The earnings rubbed hard against Spivakov's already tender social conscience. The violinist has now set up a

foundation at his festival in Colmar to raise money for needy children.

The decision to form his own orchestra arose from a similar sense of personal and altruistic passions. He made his conducting débüt in Chicago and was invited to form his own Chicago Chamber Players. Then the war in Afghanistan severed all links between the United States and the Soviet Union: Spivakov returned to Moscow and formed his band there. That had the advantage of his being able to obtain exit visas, at the very least, for a sizeable body of friends and colleagues.

Meanwhile, two colleagues had gone West: Mikhail Rudy, the pianist, had defected while in Paris in 1977; Sitkovetsky had emigrated to New York in the same year. For Spivakov, things were more complex. His mother, who had lived through the siege of Leningrad, was ill, and "after the Revolution, it was as if our race ceased to exist. If I can use a term of Josef Brodsky, I felt Judeo-Christian, blended, assimilated."

Nevertheless, this September, Spivakov is taking the Virtuosi to Spain for two years, with all their families. The project is the result of an initiative from Spain's Royal Foundation for Chamber Music, who invited him to direct the Marbella Festival, and from the region of Asturias where they will be based. "When people used to move away from their native lands, they often did not know if they were going to come back. But I do not want to sever all my links with the Soviet Union..."

• *Vladimir Spivakov and the Moscow Virtuosi* play Mozart's Symphony No 39 in A major, Shostakovich's Chamber Symphony and Vivaldi's The Four Seasons at the Albert Hall on Saturday at 7.30pm (broadcast live on Radio 3).

## Abdication waltz?

ON SEPTEMBER 25 and 26 at the Buxton Opera House, a hushed and expectant world has its first chance to hear songs from a new musical called *The Windsors*, the subject of which is Edward, Mrs Simpson, and the love which rocked the Empire.

Palace rumours

AUGUST has not been a kind month to Palace Pictures, once the golden boy of new-wave UK film distributors. Rumours of a cashflow crisis have been circulating for some time, particularly after the unhealthy box-office performance of *Chicago Joe and the Showgirl*. Furthermore, there were suggestions that the delayed and then over-hurried release of *Mike Hodges' thriller, Black Rainbow*, into the cinemas at the end of July was a symptom of a company looking for a quick trip to the video store, where life is cheaper and returns can be higher.

The botched release of *Black Rainbow* has already raised the ire of the film's producers, Goldcrest. Now Palace appears to have fallen out with another client — Lew Grade's former company, ITC — over the Val Kilmer picture, *Kill Me Again*. While Palace argues that the release of this film had to be delayed because negotiations were not complete, the company was less keen to acknowledge that, as a result, pre-release marketing costs, which some have put as high as £50,000, had to be written off.

Julia Margaret Cameron: her house is under threat; see "Cameron's kingdom"



Vladimir Spivakov: boyish 45-year-old Soviet violin virtuoso



Julia Margaret Cameron: her house is under threat; see "Cameron's kingdom"

## REVIEWS

# Slick piece in need of spice

## OPERA

The Duenna  
Playhouse, Edinburgh

SO FAR, opera in Edinburgh this year has been something of a miss and miss affair. After the basic ineptitudes of Martini's *The Greek Passion*, heard in a concert performance on Monday, Prokofiev's *La Duenna* can be heard, courtesy of the Bolshoi Opera.

This is far slicker music than Martini's, but it still does not gel satisfactorily. Prokofiev fails to get his version of Sheridan's comedy of romance, class distinction and disguise off the ground. It is a work that seems more longwinded than *Der Rosenkavalier* and more convolutedly complex than *Figaro*, without the rich inventiveness of either. Its musical language seems strenuously conservative. A touch of spikiness might have gone against the Stalinist grain, but would have done wonders for the opera.

Nevertheless, within its carnival-like limitations, the Bolshoi Opera's production, by Boris Pokrovsky, does its best, helped by Valery Leventhal's designs, by some fine singing in the best, powerfully penetrating Russian tradition, and by some astute stagecraft.

The set is quite simple: a gallery on each side to the front of the stage, a large number of cloth banners that descend and ascend and thus become screens which obscure and reveal each other, and a turntable through which characters enter and leave. The decor hints at a mish-mash of images



Galina Borisova (right) in the title role, with Vladimir Kedriashov and Galina Chernoba in *The Duenna* and styles. Eighteenth-century French *commedia dell'arte*, 20th-century surrealism and, for the scene involving drunken monks, a touch of Beryl Cook-like caricature, are all here.

Alexander Lazarev conducts the Bolshoi Orchestra in a performance of Straussian spaciousness and often almost Stravinsky-like elegance. The Duenna herself, in the first of the two casts, is Galina Borisova, who shows a nice line in portraying the classic, over-ardent, ugly dame. Alexei Masenikov and Mikhail Krutikov are the appealing complementary pair

enough for Silver. He must have charisma, power and menace, because he must inspire respect, obedience and fear among men used to regarding their grannies as petty cash. Bennett displays no such mesmeric qualities. Even the parrot seemed unimpressed, flapping its wings and looking as if it was thinking of better places than his shoulder to perch.

The compensations are the production's energy and unsentimentality. Ugly pirates rush through the audience, and there is plenty of movement on the walkways, rope ladders and other impediments which embody a ship, a hill, the earth. The lights could perhaps be more realistic but, again, that may be the movie memories talking.

Walter Carr makes a genuinely unappealing Blind Pew, a tattered, broken old crow jerking across the stage in search of prey: Jimmy Logan's bloated, drunken Billy Bones manages to make Mummerset roar of "Shiver me timbers" and "Rum, me hearties" sound as if they might be delivered across a real bar and Frank Barrie is a refreshingly rough and aggressive Smollett. Dunlop's anti-heroic slant and deflationary tactics are not wrong in themselves. They just need to be more dramatically applied.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

around in semi-darkness: a street-sweeper sweeps, a girl lights up a cigarette, a bald lady enters. There is a sense both of a country awakening from a nightmare and of that nightmare continuing. The street sweeper leads the girl in a wild dance, a sequence, apparently from a propaganda film in which a group of impossibly smiling people take turns to sit on a bench, is wound backwards and repeated, into a discarded coffin. Other sequences are repulsive or violent: a man in a gas mask and a woman with a horribly bandaged face attempt to couple: the street sweeper smashes planks of wood against a park bench.

It is all rather mystifying, but Alexei Paperny's incisive ballad-

## THEATRE

Cupboard Man  
Gate, Notting Hill

THIS short one-man show, based on a chilling story by Ian McEwan, established the reputation of derrick derrick productions as masters of an unnerving genre of theatre. Obsessions that straddle the boundaries of the mind become all the more haunting for being acted with a fastidious, almost dainty care.

Philip McDermott's performance as the young man who chooses to live in a wardrobe won the company a Fringe First at Edinburgh several years ago. His youthful and deceptively fragile appearance have not changed since then, with tensely held limbs and carefully spoken account of a weird childhood suggesting a personality likely to fall apart if he did not think intently about every movement and phrase.

At the start of the swing open to reveal the young man disconsolately crouched among the hanging clothes. Keen to talk, he speaks of a loving mother so devoted to him that she kept him in nappies till adolescence and discouraged his learning to speak, until the day she switched her attention to a fancier man.

Derrick crises are followed by terrified employment in a hotel kitchen when Pus-face, the loathsome cook, locks him in the oven and receives a terrible punishment. "That's how I sorted Pus-face out," he explains, in the neutral tones more suited to mentioning the choice of a brand of spaghetti.

Wearing his seriously overwashed woolly pullover, and staring from his cupboard with the level gaze of the infant Kafka or Antony Perkins at the gates of the Bates Motel, McDermott's performance, directed by Julie Bardsley, makes this 50-minute chiller a mesmerising piece of theatre.

Playing until Saturday, this production is the first in the Gate's three-week "Not the Edinburgh Festival" season. For the second half of the evening McDermott is joined by two other improvisation experts, Lee Simpson and Guy Darwell, in *The Institute of Curiosity and Execution*. This is the not obviously relevant title for an hour of sketches, all of them, I am assured, improvised then and there. Only the players' occasional corposing makes it evident that they are developing their batty inventions as they go along. Clever stuff.

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JEREMY KINGSTON

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From Tverskoi Boulevard to Wall Street, Charles Marowitz has had the idea of reincarnating the medieval Everyman as an insider dealer. God feels neglected and sends Death to inform Everyman that his days are numbered. Marowitz's one-liners are comic, and slickly delivered by Brian Bremer, who makes a most plausibly weaselly proto-Bosky. Comic treatment is extended to some of Everyman's associates especially David Vorgan's Fellowship, a dry English barnsier, and Tim Fletcher's Confession, a glitzy media divine. The fact that this

Everyman is stonily unregenerate precludes any sense of moral struggle, but George Neilson's lavish production is polished and enjoyable, if you discount Marowitz's banal music and lyrics.

Archos is a new wave French circus which has acquired a reputation for being bad, mad and dangerous to watch. Quite misleading (though invaluable as a marketing ploy), for beneath its punk surface, Archos has a heart full of Gallic charm. There is romantic trapeze, a ballistic bicycle routine and much innocent, whimsical business with fish and cars. I was reminded of Bennett's *Diva*, and, being a sucker for that sort of thing, entranced.

HARRY EYRES

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## NEW RELEASES

**THE BRAVE LITTLE TOASTER** (U): Enclosing Disney-style cartoon feature about little humoured household objects venturing on an ascent of inchy rising escalator, in 1987. By Jerry Regez. Cannon, Cannon Court, Fleet Road (01-435 6148)

**THE DAYS OF THUNDER** (12): Block-buster drama from the best known top gun, hairy on race-track action and Tom Cruise's cocky girl with an ornery, with Robert Duvall directed by Tony Scott. Cannon, Cannon Court, Fleet Road (01-435 6724)

**Father Routh** (PG): Crime. Cannon, Cannon Court, Fleet Road (01-435 6329)

**THE KILLER** (18): Stylish, over-the-top Hong Kong crime melodrama squelched in blood and tears with Chen Yun Fan as a disaffected ne'er-do-well. Cineplex, Cineplex Odeon (01-800 3647)

**NEW DIRECTORS COLLECTION** (1990): Mixed bag of short films from the British Film Institute's production division, including a new version of *Great Expectations*, with Anne Rivers' experimental *Break Express*. Metro (01-737 0575)

**ROMULAD AND JULIETTE** (12): Colette Samara's social comedy about a young factory girl who falls for her boss's cleaning lady. Long-winded, but with determined performances by Diane Venes and newcomer Fiona Rashad. EuroVideo (01-435 2443) Cineplex Cinema (01-351 4742) Previews (01-737 0470)

**WHERE THE HEART IS** (15): John Goodman's allegorical comedy with Danny DeVito as a man who ends up with a woman in a dream sequence. Lovers' Lane (01-435 6119) Cannon, Cannon Court, Fleet Road (01-435 6119)

**ADAM TO THE FUTURE PART III** (12): A study in cross-dresser to round off the series with some waywardness at the *Woman's* expense. Cannon, Cannon Court, Fleet Road (01-435 6788)

**BABY BABY** (12): John Waters' frantic performance as a maniacal father and his dim-witted son. Cannon, Cannon Court, Fleet Road (01-435 6119)

**THE GREEN** (12): The new batch of *Gremlins* is the latest in a series of sequels to the 1984 hit, *Gremlins*, which has become a cult classic and sophisticated satire. EuroVideo (01-435 6892) Cannon, Cannon Court, Fleet Road (01-435 6200)

**BABAR THE MOVIE** (U): Blend but serviceable cartoon for young ones: based on Jean de Brunhoff's popular elephant character. Cannon, Cannon Court, Fleet Road (01-435 6891) Cineplex Cinema (01-351 4742)

**BIG BUMBLE FUNK** (12): Freely comedy-satire on the *Woman's* series, with *Rugby* Hauer as a brandy-swigging old dame. Cannon, Cannon Court, Fleet Road (01-435 6119)

**BLACK RAINBOW** (16): A hideous, gloomy thriller about a chaste, cloistered nun (Rosanna Arquette) who becomes a murder suspect on easy street. Cannon, Cannon Court, Fleet Road (01-435 6119)

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6.00 Ceefax  
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando 8.35 Regional news and weather  
9.00 News and weather  
9.05 But First This Children's entertainment beginning with *Bebe and Sebastian* (1.30) Why Don't You...? More diverting tales for broad youngsters (r)  
10.00 News and weather followed by *The Jetsons* 10.30 Playdays (r)  
10.55 Five to Eleven, Pupils from the Netherlands Girls' Comprehensive School Maidstone, Berkshire, sing a selection of hymns and songs (r)  
11.00 News and weather followed by *Peaceable Kingdom*, American drama series starring Lindsay Wagner as a woman who becomes director of Los Angeles County Zoo  
12.00 News and weather followed by *The Garden Party*, Magazine series from the botanic gardens in Glasgow. Rita Nightingale, a former inmate of the infamous Bangkok Hilton, relates her experiences; Michael Tee explains and demonstrates Qigong exercises and Debbie Nicholson talks to writer Willie Molvaneen. Presented by Denis Tuohy and Debbie Greenwood 12.55 Regional news and weather  
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton, Weather  
1.30 Neighbours, (Ceefax) 1.50 He Who Dares. Documentary about two bomb disposal experts who were set the task of neutralising a German second world war bomb, which contained 1,500lbs of explosives and had seven seconds left on the fuse (r)  
2.20 Film: *Hell Drivers* (1957, b/w). CHOICE: This interesting and rare example of an English trucking movie — starring the British of its day — belonged to what critic Raymond Durgnat called Rank's "heavy industry" cycle, which in turn was a reworking of old Hollywood genres. Hell Drivers is surprisingly tough for an English picture, its lack of obvious Englishness attributable to director Cy

Enfield, a political refugee from Hollywood, who — along with his fellow exiles Joseph Llosa — proved exceptionally sharp at casting. Both recognised the rough-edged star quality of Stanley Baker — a tougher, more hamboyan, and often more effective screen boy — than Burton — and Enfield's casting here reinforces the film's un-English feel: there are few actual Englishmen on screen. In a bit part is Sean Connery, with pre-007 eyebrows, and an early rival to him, Steve Easton, in *The Prisoner* — impresses as the heavy.  
4.05 *Bunyip*, Cartoon adventures 4.10 All The New Poppy Show (r) 4.35 Bad Boys (r)  
5.00 *Neverround 1.50* *Stowbridge*. Episode two of an eight-part children's thriller (r), (Ceefax).  
5.35 *Neighbours*, (r), (Ceefax). Northern Ireland: *Spotwade* 5.40 *Inside Ulster*  
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Andrew Harvey and Ford, Weather  
6.30 Regional News Magazines, Northern Ireland: *Neighbours*  
7.00 Top of the Pops introduced by Antenna Chorlton. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1

3.00 News and weather followed by *Wild World*. Barry Paine nemesis the story of Jeff Goodman and his Laurie Emberson's exploration of the marine life off the coast of Devon (r) 3.50 News 4.09 One in Four, Magazine series on disabled matters  
4.30 *Ten Green Bottles*. Some of the highlights of *Arena's* first ten years, including Dame Edna Everage, Paul McCartney and Orson Welles (r)  
6.00 *Film: Jailhouse Rock* (1958 b/w). Elvis Presley plays the prisoner, convicted for manslaughter, who learns to play the guitar and becomes a sensation. One of the best Elvis musicals, with support by Mickey Shaughnessy and Judy Tyler.  
7.35 *Business Matters*. Using a fictional company, MacGregor Mouldings, *Business Matters* show how important business meeting skills are and how a company suffers through a lack of them, concentrating mainly on team-building aspects. Wales: *Gardening Together*.  
8.00 *The Step*, Maxwell Story. Off-beat and well above average American comedy series. Starring Dabney Coleman and Shirley Jones  
8.30 *On the Line*. Sports news and views. Motorcycling accidents are one of the accepted dangers of the sport, but with an increase in speed also comes an

7.30 *EastEnders*, (Ceefax)  
8.00 *Life on One*. Sarah Greene and Simon Mayo report live from the seafront at Aldburgh in Suffolk on why the British weather is so unpredictable and on how safe the coastal defences are against the rises in sea level caused by global warming.  
8.30 *Some Mothers Do 'ave 'em*. Classic comedy about an over-enthusiastic, but incredibly dim-witted and maladroit husband and his long-suffering wife. Starring Michael Crawford and Michael Dorn (r). Northern Ireland: *Dead Army*  
9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. Regional news and weather  
9.30 *The Play on One*, Obituaries  
• CHOICE: Senior actors strut their stuff to effect in a two-hourer, set in a nursing home, and the writing allows plenty of scope for pathos, range and that stiff-upper stuff at which English actors of a certain calibre and generation excel. Ian Carmichael and Ronald Fraser play types reminiscent of the bogus old boys found in Kingsley Amis' bluestocking, distinguished frauds, only aware of their opponent's jugular, and fond of games that end nastily. The day begins innocently enough with a run through the paper's death column — scored according to suddenness versus peacefulness — followed by a recital of the glowing, VIP obits they've written each other — "A crucial event in his life was his conversion to Christianity during a dog fight over Biggin Hill". These wry bits of fiction stand, of course, in brutal contrast to the reality: elderly lives, in mind and spirit as sharp in claw, rendered by a mordant humor in the teeth of the gathering darkness, plus the odd, well-placed expletive. (Ceefax)

10.40 *Film: The Mean Season* (1985). Kurt Russell stars as Anderson, a journalist who starts to receive telephone calls from a serial killer, telling him of his next murder. Anderson informs the police and they join forces in an effort to bring the killer to book. Good suspense build-up. Directed by Philip Bosco. (Ceefax) 12.00 *Weather*

Increase in stress, an unseen injury to which motor racing drivers are subject. Medical experts are just beginning to investigate. Presented by Sue Mott and Ray Stubbs  
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# MOSCOW gesture to exiles

From MARY DEJEVSKY  
IN MOSCOW

SPECULATION was ripe in Moscow yesterday that the writer, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, and the poet, Josef Brodsky, were among beneficiaries of a presidential decree restoring Soviet citizenship to "a number of individuals" exiled abroad since 1966.

An announcement by Tass said President Gorbachev had annulled decrees depriving people of their Soviet citizenship issued between 1966 and 1988 and had instructed the foreign ministry to communicate the decision to those affected. A foreign ministry spokesman said he did not know who was included in the list, but said he had heard the names of Mr Solzhenitsyn and Mr Brodsky mentioned.

Whether the order would affect the status of Soviet citizens who emigrated to Israel or personalities such as Anatoli Shcharansky, the Jewish campaigner, was uncertain.

Some, like Mr Solzhenitsyn and his fellow writer, Andrei Sinyavsky, were deprived of their citizenship and forcibly exiled. Many others, such as the musician, Mstislav Rostropovich, and his wife, the opera singer, Galina Vishnevskaya, were stripped of their citizenship while abroad, and so prevented from returning. Until four years ago there was virtually no contact between the emigrants and the Soviet authorities.

Since then, Moscow has gradually acknowledged the damage that this practice of isolating itself from its emigrants inflicted on the country and a number of exiles have been granted temporary visas for visits. Restoration of citizenship has been more complicated because Moscow usually required a formal application. Many forced into emigrating refused to do this, arguing that the deprivation of citizenship was an illegal act and should be undone by those who perpetrated it.

The restoration of Mr Solzhenitsyn's citizenship, if confirmed, would close a bitter chapter in postwar Soviet culture. It would also pave the way for the writer to return to the Soviet Union.

Yesterday neither South York-

shire police nor the DPP's office

would comment on the contents of what is described as a lengthy report on the range of possible charges. A spokesman for the DPP's office said any decision on the report would take some time and staff had yet to consider the report in any depth.

Last year seven staff or officials of P & O ferries were charged with manslaughter after a Kent police investigation into the Zeebrugge disaster.

The West Midlands investigation included 9,560 questionnaires, 5,341 statements and 2,392 sets of documents including 71 hours of video recordings, 2,411 photographs and the transcripts of the 174 witnesses at the Taylor inquiry.

## Motorists' blind spot

Continued from page 1

70mph speed limit, 60 per cent of car drivers and 40 per cent of truck drivers did not understand that red studs divide the main carriage-way from the hard shoulder, and 73 per cent of car drivers and 64 per cent commercial motorists did not know that green studs separate slip roads from the motorway.

Seventy per cent of car drivers and 72 per cent of truck motorists did not know that the recommended gap between their vehicle and the one in front should be at least two seconds. They may find out too late, for few knew the stopping distances set in the code.

In his report on the disaster the judge severely criticised the police for their handling of events at the FA Cup semi-final match between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest. The failure of police control was held to be the main reason for the disaster.

Mr Duckenfield, recently promoted and handling his first semi-final, and Superintendent Bernard Murray were accused of misjudging the build-up at the Leppings Lane turnstiles, where trouble first began, and did little about it until they were given a request by Superintendent Roger Marshall to open the gates.

The president is likely to give an instant "no" in reply to the alleged peace plan which the king is bringing from President Saddam.

He will then press for immediate closure of the Agaba port and full compliance with UN sanctions.

White House sources said yesterday that Mr Bush's mood is one of "anger" against the Sandhurst-educated king who on the surface is so Western in outlook. The

master of personal diplomacy does not take kindly when his "friends" let him down.

The attitude of junior officers was praised in the inquiry but last autumn a number of junior officers were reported to have been interviewed by the West Midlands team. These were officers patrolling the pitch at the Leppings Lane where emergency gates on to the pitch were later said not to have been opened quickly enough.

In his final report in January the judge made a number of recommendations about the club facilities for police operations urging greater flexibility of late kick-offs and Sunday fixtures, and a police review.

But, if King Hussein insists on

equivocating, the White House is ready to send him home with a clear sense of where US priorities now lie. "The days of sitting on the fence are over," an American diplomat said.

He will make offers of financial aid to sweeten Jordan's pill. The Jordanian economy has become almost totally dependent on Iraq, from which it imports 90 per cent of its oil and to which it sells 40 per cent of its exports.

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# South hit the hardest by economic slowdown

By DEREK HARRIS, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

MANUFACTURING in the south of England is being hardest hit by the economic slowdown, according to the latest figures from the Confederation of British Industry.

The CBI's first study of regional industrial trends shows that the greatest impact is being felt by factories in the Southeast, Southwest and the West Midlands.

A year ago, parts of northern England were most affected.

The last CBI trends study, out earlier this month, was the gloomiest since the early Eighties. The CBI said that industry could be facing a recession within six months.

Output forecasts for the next four months showed five regions expecting an balance — stuck between optimistic and pessimistic company forecasts — to see improvements.

The northern region showed a 6 per cent increase, the East Midlands 8 per cent, East Anglia 1 per cent, Scotland 1 per cent and Northern Ireland a 25 per cent jump.

Yet the overall UK expectation was 5 per cent down, emphasising the preponderance of total national manufacturing in the three worst-hit regions.

The West Midlands, hit by its heavy dependence on the troubled vehicles and components sector, marked down expectations by 18 per cent.

In the Southeast, optimists and pessimists were in balance. There were mostly minor negatives elsewhere, with the Southwest down 3 per cent and Wales and the Northwest 2 per cent off, although York-

shire and Humberside were 9 per cent down.

Rising exports are still benefiting some companies and largely explain the optimism about keeping the factories busy. Overseas orders have risen in the past four months in the northern region, Yorkshire and Humberside, the East Midlands, East Anglia, the Southwest, the Northwest and Northern Ireland. They have fallen in the Southeast, the West Midlands, Scotland and Wales.

There are warnings of deteriorating competitiveness slowing the growth of exports. Strengthening of sterling has hit price competitiveness, but with unit labour costs rising, a squeeze on margins is regarded as inevitable.

A wide mix of industry, such as in the East Midlands, is a potent factor in bolstering the economy of some areas.

Employment levels have been cut in every region as productivity has grown. The greatest decline has been in the northern region followed closely by the Northwest, the West Midlands and the Southeast. Wales and the Southwest have been least affected.

Investment intentions over 12 months show mostly declines, the national drop being 7 per cent. The biggest declines are expected in Yorkshire and Humberside (down 24 per cent), the Northwest (22 per cent) and the West Midlands (28 per cent). The Southeast is down 13 per cent.

There are however big increases forecast in Wales (up 24 per cent) and in Northern Ireland (57 per cent).

QUEENS Moat Houses, the hotel chain, is buying ten overseas hotels for an initial £30 million and a maximum of £48 million by April 1993, writes Martin Waller.

The group has also announced pre-tax profits ahead from £24.0 million to £39.5 million in the six months to July 8 and an interim dividend up from 1.06p to 1.22p.

The shares edged back 3p to 95p amid concern about the group's mounting debt. This will total £753 million once the first payment for the French acquisition is made, leaving borrowings at 59 per cent of shareholders' funds.

But John Bairstow, the

chairman, said he is "comfortable" with that figure. Just £76 million of the debt is in Britain. He admitted it is taking longer than expected to sell the three St James's clubs the group acquired with Norfolk Capital in April.

HIM has two four-star Ramada Hotel franchises in Belgium and eight more Holiday Inns, mainly three- and four-star, in France, four in Paris and one in Nice, Strasbourg, Lyons and Toulouse.

Queens Moat is acquiring the hotels on a "wateright management agreement", said Mr Bairstow, and will keep all the profits earned once the initial purchase is completed.

Queens Moat is buying 49 per cent of HI Management from Roland Sturm, a West German businessman from whom it bought eight Holiday Inns in West Germany for £75 million in 1987.

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Temps, page 23

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Temps, page 23

## Majority accept Anglo swap

By PHILIP PANGALOS

PRE-TAX profits at Pifco Holdings, the electrical appliance manufacturer, powered ahead by 20 per cent to £3.42 million in the year to end-April despite a difficult market for consumer durables.

Personal care products had a particularly good year. Star performer was the Professional Hairdryer, which was number one in Britain, said Michael Webber, the chairman and chief executive.

Mr Webber said housewares turned in a reasonably good performance, "helped by a high increase in fan sales, due to the hot weather. Demand had continued in the current financial year, though lighting products were a bit flat."

The consumer squeeze had reduced spending on more expensive electrical goods, but people had continued to buy cheaper items. The company, which has about 200 products under the Pifco, Salton and Caramen brands is to launch 20 products this year.

Pifco has £8.7 million in the bank and investment income doubled from £420,000 to

## Pifco powers ahead by 20% to £3.42m

By DEREK HARRIS, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

GREENE, King, the East Anglian brewer in problems because of a leisure diversification, has sold its 25 per cent stake in the Harp Lager Company for £6 million.

The shareholding has gone to the Guinness group, which will now wholly own Harp.

Greene, King has a one-third stake in Big R Leisure which went into receivership earlier this week hit by high interest rates, leaving Greene, King expecting profits to be affected.

Simon Redman, Greene, King chairman, said the shareholding sale was logical because earlier this year it began brewing Harp under licence at its expanded lager brewery at Biggleswade. The stake in Harp was part of an agreement for supplies from the Harp brewery at Greene's Park Royal plant since superceded.

Greene, King sells Harp stake for £6m

By DEREK HARRIS, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

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## Bond sale of brewing assets approved

By BRIAN BUCHANAN  
IN SYDNEY

BELL Resources' shareholders yesterday approved the A\$1.9 billion (£82.2 million) purchase of Bond Corporation Holdings' Australian breweries, leaving Alan Bond's battered flagship, with a mountain of debt, many creditors and almost no assets.

BCH, which will still carry more than A\$400 million of bank debt and about A\$1.1 billion in convertible bonds after the sale, is believed to have compiled a balance sheet that could reveal negative shareholders' funds.

Even after the sale of its entire asset book, BCH is thought to have more than A\$1.4 billion in outstanding liabilities.

The decision by Bell Resources' shareholders came just after Lion Nathan, the New Zealand brewer, confirmed that it had agreed to buy Bell as a joint partner in the breweries.

Lion Nathan will help fund a discounted buy-back offer to American investors on \$510 million of Bond Brewing Holdings debentures as part of the brewery deal.

Geoff Hill, Bell Resources' chairman, told shareholders at a meeting in Perth that Lion Nathan would provide up to A\$300 million with Bell contributing the balance of A\$40 million to buy out American creditors.

The joint venture agreement between Bell and Lion Nathan was only signed on Tuesday.

The key elements of the deal are:

- Bell Resources will complete the brewery purchase.
- At least 51 per cent of American debenture holders must accept the renewed buy-back offer.
- Lion Nathan will then convert its funding of the debenture repurchase into a 50 per cent stake in the breweries.

Under the deal, Lion Nathan will have control of operational and management matters.

The joint venture also depends on Foreign Investment Review Board approval. Mr Hill said the completion date had been extended to September 6.

The joint venture will have total assets of A\$1.53 billion for the breweries. Mr Hill said shareholders had sought to achieve commercial solutions as opposed to legal options, even though the board thought corporate regulations required enforcement.

He assured shareholders that the company was not giving up its rights to certain amounts due to Bell Resources by Bond Corp. "We are not and cannot as a company forgo our rights against former directors," said Mr Hill.

## WORLD MARKET INDICES

| Index                | Value  | Daily change (%) | Yearly change (%) | Daily change (%) | Yearly change (%) | Daily change (%) | Yearly change (%) |
|----------------------|--------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| The World (free)     | 826.2  | 1.7              | -25.8             | 1.9              | -14.4             | 2.5              | -12.5             |
| EMEA (free)          | 119.4  | 1.7              | -26.0             | 1.8              | -14.6             | 2.5              | -12.7             |
| Europe (free)        | 1097.2 | 2.9              | -29.6             | 2.3              | -20.2             | 3.8              | -17.0             |
| Europe (free)        | 1124.2 | 3.0              | -29.8             | 2.3              | -20.8             | 3.5              | -17.4             |
| North America (free) | 572.0  | 0.6              | -11.7             | 0.5              | -7.9              | 1.5              | -4.1              |
| Nth America (free)   | 440.0  | -0.4             | -18.2             | 0.4              | -3.7              | 0.4              | -3.6              |
| Nordic (free)        | 1446.7 | 0.1              | -7.1              | 0.0              | 0.7               | 0.9              | 9.6               |
| Pacific (free)       | 223.4  | 0.3              | -1.2              | 0.1              | 6.7               | 1.1              | 16.5              |
| Far East (free)      | 2394.7 | 4.8              | -39.6             | 3.8              | -27.6             | 5.7              | -28.5             |
| Australia (free)     | 3443.9 | 5.1              | -40.5             | 4.0              | -28.5             | 6.0              | -29.8             |
| Denmark (free)       | 221.9  | -0.6             | -16.0             | -0.1             | -3.2              | 0.2              | -0.9              |
| Finland (free)       | 1652.5 | 0.4              | -11.2             | 0.0              | 20.8              | 5.7              | 31.1              |
| Belgium (free)       | 778.8  | 0.4              | -20.8             | 0.0              | -16.9             | 1.3              | -8.6              |
| Canada (free)        | 459.6  | -0.8             | -23.5             | -0.1             | -10.9             | 0.1              | -9.8              |
| UK (free)            | 1262.9 | 0.4              | -4.1              | 0.0              | 2.2               | 1.2              | 13.1              |
| France (free)        | 87.8   | -0.2             | -24.1             | -0.3             | -18.5             | 0.7              | -10.5             |
| Spain (free)         | 1263.3 | 0.1              | -15.3             | 0.1              | -9.1              | 0.9              | -0.1              |
| Sweden (free)        | 641.9  | 0.2              | -20.8             | 0.0              | -15.2             | 1.0              | -8.4              |
| Germany (free)       | 824.5  | 1.8              | -10.1             | 1.4              | -2.2              | 2.4              | 5.9               |
| Hong Kong (free)     | 2104.5 | 2.9              | -5.1              | 3.7              | 11.4              | 3.7              | 11.8              |
| Italy (free)         | 319.7  | 0.2              | -17.1             | 0.2              | -11.6             | 1.1              | -2.2              |
| Japan (free)         | 361.0  | 5.4              | -41.6             | 4.0              | -29.5             | 6.2              | -31.0             |
| Netherlands (free)   | 798.8  | 0.5              | -16.5             | 0.4              | -8.2              | 1.3              | -9.4              |
| New Zealand (free)   | 79.7   | 2.0              | -22.7             | 2.6              | -12.4             | 2.9              | -9.8              |
| Norway (free)        | 1468.2 | 0.2              | 9.4               | 0.1              | 1.5               | 2.0              | 28.9              |
| Portugal (free)      | 260.4  | 0.1              | -11.5             | 0.1              | -20.5             | 1.0              | -31.4             |
| Sing/Malaysia (free) | 1647.8 | 1.2              | -17.4             | 1.6              | -8.0              | 2.0              | -2.8              |
| Spain (free)         | 163.0  | 0.4              | -18.5             | 0.0              | -16.0             | 1.2              | -3.8              |
| Sweden (free)        | 1599.5 | 0.0              | -8.8              | 0.0              | -0.3              | 0.8              | 7.5               |
| Finland (free)       | 234.5  | 0.3              | -3.1              | 0.2              | 5.5               | 1.1              | 14.2              |
| Switzerland (free)   | 837.8  | 2.4              | -2.4              | 2.3              | -8.8              | 3.5              | 8.0               |
| UK (free)            | 125.5  | 2.7              | -10.1             | 2.8              | -10.5             | 3.5              | 6.0               |
| USA (free)           | 664.7  | 0.3              | -7.8              | 0.3              | -7.8              | 1.1              | 8.7               |
| USA (free)           | 397.4  | -0.4             | -17.8             | 0.5              | -3.1              | 0.5              | -3.1              |

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

## ALPHA STOCKS

| Vol '000      | Vol '000       | Vol '000       | Vol '000         |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| ADT 127       | Cookson 747    | Lommo 1,728    | Shell 2,435      |
| Alday Nat 653 | Courtaulds 567 | Lucas 723      | Siemens 1,126    |
| Amoco 1,000   | Dunlop 1,000   | Marathon 1,200 | Sime Darby 2,100 |

The final agonies of Lowndes Queensway are a further reminder that even the most straight-faced bankers are prone to fits of enthusiasm for risky ventures. In the 1970s they threw money at fringe property and banking ventures. This particular rush of blood to the head seriously threatened the stability of Britain's financial system. Those too young to remember would scarcely believe that the chairman of a high street clearing bank would ever be forced to make a public declaration that his company was not, contrary to widespread fears, about to go bust. But it happened.

Later, the international banking system blew billions on dubious loans to countries with appalling records as borrowers. The scars of that episode have been evident years afterwards in massive write-downs of those same ill-starred advances.

In the past few years financial engineers have held sway in banking parlours both sides of the Atlantic. In America especially, vast sums have been committed to highly leveraged buy-outs replacing boring old

equity in company balance sheets with mountains of debt.

Lowndes Queensway's collapse has reawakened fears of that risky management buy-outs will threaten havoc on the banks as they succumb to high interest rates.

Nowadays British banks have hefty exposures to the buy-out fad. In filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission Barclays admits it has £1.4 billion outstanding to 160 companies. In April, Midland still had £1.9 billion in leveraged loans, the largest worth £160 million.

Some of the chickens have already come home to roost. Due to their sensitivity to interest rates, MBOs have been at the forefront of corporate failure, forcing institutions to enlarge their already overburdened bad debt provisions. Standard Chartered had to write off £25 million of its £400 million MBO portfolio in the first half of the

year alone. But even as the bad debts mount, banks continue to deny they are concerned about their exposure.

Their lending to the sector is continuing, albeit more cautiously, as witnessed by recent buy-outs of Coloroll and Response subsidiaries.

True, many MBOs are trading successfully and will ultimately reap large profits for lenders, investors and their management alike. But others have been trading under the security of interest rate caps, which are now due to expire. When they are exposed to the cold blast of a 15 per cent base rate, they could join Lowndes in the graveyard, punching more holes in their bankers' balance sheets.

Even though the MBO lending problem is not on the same scale of Third World debt a decade

ago, it is another harsh lesson for banks who become dedicated followers of financial fashion. In the end of course, the customer pays.

## Bought deal

Bought deals, where a securities house acts as principal in a share placing rather than agent, are becoming more expensive as they become more popular. Warburg Securities managed to persuade ICI to take a discount of more than 10 per cent on the overnight market price for its 25 per cent stake in Enterprise Oil, the biggest such deal so far.

This compares with discounts ranging from 1 per cent on Warburg's sale of a relatively small parcel of British Gas shares

to the 6.5 per cent discount at which Smith New Court placed Elders' 23 per cent holding on Scottish & Newcastle. There was a similar discount on the placing of the remaining Hong Kong government stake in HK Telecom. In between, however, Kleinwort Benson made a mess of trying to sell Burmah's former 29.7 per cent stake in the smaller Premier Consolidated Oilfields. Kleinwort aimed to push up the market price on the back of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait through making available large chunks of stock, but the institutions would have none of it.

Learning from the volatility of the oil price and oil shares in the middle of fast-changing political moves, Warburg dropped its target selling price at a late stage from about 625p to the realised 607p. Warburg feared that a £700 million placing would test the market's capacity in uncertain times, especially because Enterprise is less known than most companies of its size and half the stock was held by ICI and by Elf, the French state group.

ICI seems quite happy that Warburg made a pretty profit of nearly £8 million on its morning's work. But the caution seems to have been justified. Enterprise shares, after rapid recent gains, settled at 626p, down 43p, after the placing.

Perennial bid speculation had already subsided somewhat before the dispersion of ICI's shares. Anyone who still thought that Elf would turn its declared interest into a real bid must have ignored the warning against bids by nationalised foreign companies repeatedly issued by Peter Lilley and John Redwood at the DTI.

Elf's intentions remain unclear, though long-term minority stakes are not such a rarity in oil. ICI has spoiled the market for another early placing. A sale to a more acceptable bidder cannot be ruled out. But there is already a feeling in the City that Enterprise deserves to escape once and for all from the threat hanging over its head ever since RTZ's initial market raid.

## MMC takes a wrong turn to 'Fosterisation' of brewing



MMC stayed from good free market motives

consumers, and in particular

also have 30-40 regional brew-

eries in this country.

Our reservations were based, too, on the Australian experience. Ten years ago, the tie between retail outlets and brewing was abolished there, resulting in massive concentration in the ownership of brewing. Today, brand choice has been reduced to two major suppliers, who have more than 90 per cent market share.

Real prices have increased 40 per cent in eight years. The Australian government is being forced to reduce excise duty on beer in an attempt to revive the now almost defunct brewing industry. Were those of us who opposed the MMC's recommendations right to predict that these would lead to

Massive amounts had been invested in the ever-popular British pub to meet consumer demands. By contrast with our rivals abroad, the British brewing industry was highly competitive. It took six national breweries to account for 75 per cent of the market compared, for example, with France, where two breweries accounted for 73 per cent. We

the "Fosterisation" of the British brewing industry?

The answer could lie in the proposed transaction between Grand Metropolitan and Elders. Under this scheme, GrandMet will sell its brewing operations to Courage (the UK brewing subsidiary of the Australian-owned Elders). In return, it will be paid £366 million, while at the same time agreeing a ten-year supply agreement with Courage for the sale of ale and lager to GrandMet's enlarged estate of managed pubs.

Is not this deal, while appearing to diversify GrandMet or its brewing interests, a merger in all but name? It might remain within the confines of the new regulations but does it not clearly flout their spirit and code ill for the consumer? If the MMC agree the merger, GrandMet/Elders will control a 20 per cent share of the beer market; and, as Bass already has a 20 per cent market share, a duopoly will, in effect, have been created.

There can only be one consequence. The remaining brewers will have to merge to compete. Allied-Lyons have already indicated their intention to do so; we can, therefore, predict a merger between Allied-Lyons, Whitbread and Scottish & Newcastle to follow the Grand Met/Elders deal.

This increased concentration of ownership will squeeze out smaller and regional brewers. It will reduce choice for the consumer and increase prices. It will inevitably lead to the "Fosterisation" of what has been a richly diverse beer market; all as a consequence of the MMC's misguided attempts to meddle in the complex and delicate market arrangements for the supply of a wide range of beer to the UK market.

At the very least, deals of this kind should be viewed with great suspicion by the government.

ROGER MOATE

• The author, Conservative MP for Faversham, Kent, was lead signatory on the early day motion against the proposal by Lord Young, the former trade secretary to implement the MMC report.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Hazards of Sainsbury's

THE normally agile Christopher Joll, chief executive of financial PR firm Charles Barker City, has been walking with difficulty this week after a trip to his local Sainsbury supermarket in London's Cromwell Road last Saturday. He was somewhat shaken when, "as I was minding my own business in the checkout queue," a bottle of mineral water in the trolley in front of him exploded. His first reaction at being drenched in water was irritation. But he became more concerned when he looked down at his legs — bare below a neatly-pressed pair of shorts — and saw that they were covered in blood, having been cut by shards of glass. First to his rescue was the prospective owner of the bottle. "I shooed him away, insisting that I was all right, but then he said he was a doctor, that the cuts needed stitches, and that since he was a surgeon at the Cromwell Hospital next door he could sort me out straight away," says Joll. Three stitches and a butterfly plaster later, Joll discovered that the gentleman was in fact an Iraqi. "Shopping in Sainsbury's now seems to be as hazardous as doing business in Kuwait," he quips.

### Head in clouds

JOHN Sykes, who has just been selected as the Tory candidate for Scarborough and Whitby — to succeed Sir Michael Shaw MP who retires at the next general election — has written to Lord Hanson, one of the party's supporters, seeking a further donation to funds, on the grounds that

they are both "Huddersfield boys made good." Sykes, aged 33, who won selection despite the presence on the short list of such celebrities as Lady Oiga Marland, the *Sunday Express* gossip columnist, stresses that he is in no way related to Paul Sykes, another Yorkshire businessman who hit the headlines last year as Britain's highest paid executive, earning £6 million a year. In fact, he is a director of his family firm, Sykes Group, which has a £21 million turnover and interests ranging from petroleum and plastics to agricultural and property development. "I'm on cloud nine," he said after being chosen. Hanson, whose support of the government and keen interest in the privatisation of Powergen are causing some embarrassment, might not be.

### Flying officer

POTENTIAL investors in RyanAir, the Irish airline which has just called in Goldman Sachs, the American merchant bank, to find it a partner, will no doubt be impressed by the versatility of its senior management. Twice a week, Cathal Ryan, aged 31, deputy chairman of the company and son of Dr Tony Ryan of GPA fame, abandons the comfort of his Dublin boardroom to pilot the scheduled flight to Luton. "In the unlikely event of passengers wanting to make a complaint they can go straight to the top," says Ryan, gleefully. "It's a marvellous way to keep in touch with our customers." But the regular flights must seem dull by comparison to what Ryan has been used to. A few years ago he was trapped in the cockpit of a Jumbo jet on the tarmac of Columbo airport during a civil war. A terrorist bomb blew up the rear end of the aircraft but Ryan escaped to the relative calm of life in the Emerald Isle.

CAROL LEONARD



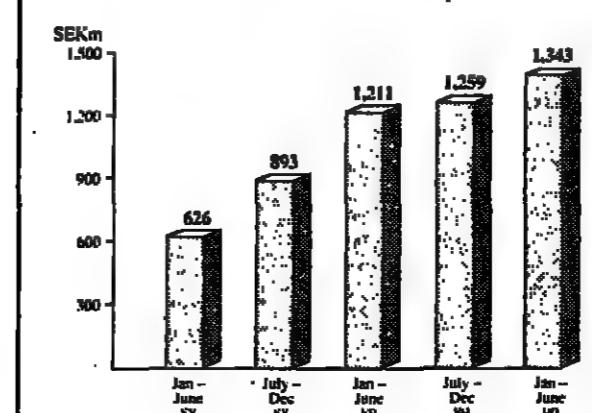
NOW FOR MY SUMMING UP...

TERRY Wood, aged 53, a gill-edged salesman at Sheppards, the agency broker 49 per cent owned by its staff, has been keeping a closely-guarded secret. His son Richard, re-

lent. Its origins can be traced to 1687 when the first member of the Huguenot Courtauld family moved to London and began working as a silversmith in the Spitalfields area. He was the first of three generations to do so. The collection has been expanded more recently with expert assistance from Old Bond Street firm Tessiers, whose founding family, coincidentally, was also Huguenot.

## SKF six months profit SEK 1,343m

Income after financial income and expense.



January - June 1990

| Income after financial income and expense | Change | Swedish Kronor | Sterling equivalent |
|---|--------|----------------|---------------------|
| Earnings per share                        | +11%   | 1.343m         | 132m                |
| Sales                                     | -4%    | 6.65           | 65p                 |
|   | +15%   | 14,707m        | 1,442m              |

A key element of SKF's long term strategy is expansion through acquisition. In line with this policy and to build on the company's leading position, SKF Tools is to be merged with West German tool company Gunther & Co (Titex), to

form CTT Cutting Tools Technology. The company will be the world's largest manufacturer of tools made from high speed steel. The transaction is contingent upon approval of the German cartel authorities.

For a copy of the 1990 Half Year Report, please contact SKF Group Public Affairs S-415 50, Göteborg, Sweden. Tel +46 (31) 371000

Average exchange rate: Jan - June 1990 1 GBP = 10.20 SEK.

AB SKF

SKF

## Ward lifts interim to £1.64m

By JONATHAN PRYNN

**STRONG** first-time buyer demand in the Medway area of Kent helped Ward Holdings, the Chatham-based house builder, triple pre-tax interim profits for the six months to April 30.

The company sold 165 homes during the period, against 90 last year, lifting turnover from house sales to £16.6 million, against £11.6 million.

David Pead, finance director, said that the availability of relatively cheap housing in the Medway area had created higher demand at the lower end of the market, boosting the bottom line to a £1.64 million, against £517,000.

The company's 2,000-plot land bank means that it will be able to meet current levels of demand for four to five years.

Ward is currently negotiating four large property sales, which will generate about £11 million in the second half.

The other divisions operated profitably, except manufacturing, which made a small loss.

The interim dividend has been held at 5.5p.

## J N Nicholls profits slip

**J N NICHOLLS** (Vimto), the soft drinks and drinks vending group, saw pre-tax profits slip from £4.76 million to £3.1 million in the six months to end-June. However, the comparative figure includes an exceptional investment gain of £1.56 million.

Operating profits edged up from £2.89 million to £2.94 million, with margins "holding up well." Turnover climbed from £23.5 million to £24.9 million.

Earnings per share fell from 18.7p to 12.6p, although earnings rose from 11.9p to 12.6p excluding the disposal of the investment. The interim dividend is 4.3p (4.0p).

The company gave warning that exports could be affected by the situation in the Middle East.

## Oil shares fall back after ICI sells Enterprise stake

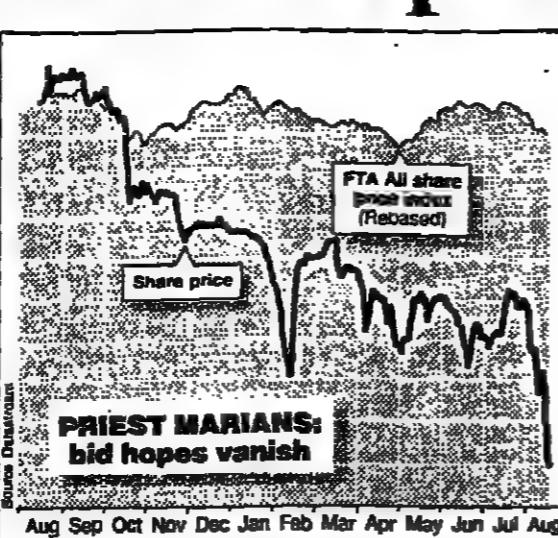
Oil shares went into reverse, as the blue-blooded combination of Warburg Securities and Cazenove successfully pulled off the London stock market's biggest ever buyout deal.

Ending two years of speculation, Warburgs and Cazenove joined forces to buy ICI's 24.9 per cent stake in Enterprise Oil at 60p a share, a huge discount to Enterprise's overnight close of 67p. Not surprisingly, given the size of the discount, the shares were quickly placed at 607p, earning the two brokers a combined profit of just under £8 million.

Having sounded out leading institutions last night, all the shares were placed before 8.30am, leaving dealers at both houses plenty of time to pop the odd champagne cork.

The ease with which the placing was done must have prompted howls of anguish at Kilmorak Benson. Last week KB was left with a 29 per cent stake in Premier Consolidated Oilfields, after buying the stake from Burmah Oil for 99p and then trying, unsuccessfully, to place the shares with institutions at 103p.

There was a certain amount of anguish among Enterprise's remaining shareholders, who watched the shares drop 47p to 626p, knocking over £200 million off the value of the company. Other oil stocks fell back, as



**PRIEST MARIANS:**  
bid hopes vanish

analysts took the view that such a massive placing, together with the overhang of the bungled Premier placing, had more than mopped up institutional demand for oil stocks. Perversely the mar-

ket's cautious confidence that diplomatic initiatives might ease the Gulf crisis, which helped trading generally, also did nothing to help oil stocks.

BP dropped 4.5p to 359p. Clyde Petroleum moved up lower to 189p, LASMO up 445p and Shell fell 9p to 475p. There was no relief for KB, which saw Premier Consolidated drop 2.5p to 23.9p. Despite the give-away price

news that Sketchley, the dry cleaning group, is likely to trade at a loss for the first half of the current year sent the shares 10p lower to 120p. John Gillum, the outgoing chairman, was given a rough ride at a stormy annual meeting. At the board meeting that followed he resigned and was replaced by David Davies. The company is expected to return to profit in the second half.

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news that Sketchley, the dry cleaning group, is likely to trade at a loss for the first half of the current year sent the shares 10p lower to 120p. John Gillum, the outgoing chairman, was given a rough ride at a stormy annual meeting. At the board meeting that followed he resigned and was replaced by David Davies. The company is expected to return to profit in the second half.

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# Portfolio

## PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to get your daily dividend figure. If it matches the figure you have won outright or a share of the daily PIZZ money pot. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

| No. | Company                 | Group               | Code or<br>Year |
|-----|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1   | TPP Europe              | Transport           |                 |
| 2   | Tiss & Lyle             | Foods               |                 |
| 3   | Old Newspapers (as)     | Newspapers, Pub     |                 |
| 4   | Goodhew                 | Paper, Print, Adv   |                 |
| 5   | Southend Prop           | Property            |                 |
| 6   | Hutchins Whampoa        | Industrials E-K     |                 |
| 7   | Unilever (as)           | Industrials S-Z     |                 |
| 8   | Barbours Index          | Newspapers, Pub     |                 |
| 9   | BAA (as)                | Transport           |                 |
| 10  | Boots (as)              | Industrials A-D     |                 |
| 11  | Grazia (as)             | Industrials E-K     |                 |
| 12  | Wicks                   | Drapery, Stores     |                 |
| 13  | Sorrell Beech (as)      | Industrials S-Z     |                 |
| 14  | AB Food (as)            | Foods               |                 |
| 15  | Haywood Williams        | Building, Roads     |                 |
| 16  | Steeley                 | Building, Roads     |                 |
| 17  | Transport Dev           | Transport           |                 |
| 18  | Tarmac (as)             | Building, Roads     |                 |
| 19  | Body Shop               | Drapery, Stores     |                 |
| 20  | Ind Bus Comms           | Newspapers, Pub     |                 |
| 21  | Traglufi H (as)         | Industrials S-Z     |                 |
| 22  | Imp Chem Ind (as)       | Chemicals, Plastics |                 |
| 23  | P & O Did (as)          | Transport           |                 |
| 24  | Sainton Eng             | Industrials S-Z     |                 |
| 25  | FR Group                | Motors, Aircraft    |                 |
| 26  | BTR (as)                | Industrials A-D     |                 |
| 27  | Berisford Int'l (as)    | Foods               |                 |
| 28  | Hammerson               | Property            |                 |
| 29  | Br Aerospace (as)       | Motors, Aircraft    |                 |
| 30  | St Ives Gp              | Paper, Print, Adv   |                 |
| 31  | Soc & New (as)          | Breweries           |                 |
| 32  | Dowty                   | Motors, Aircraft    |                 |
| 33  | Cable Wireless (as)     | Electronics         |                 |
| 34  | Brummier                | Industrials A-D     |                 |
| 35  | Reyton                  | Industrials I-R     |                 |
| 36  | Grand Met (as)          | Breweries           |                 |
| 37  | Lloyd's (as)            | Banks, Discount     |                 |
| 38  | Exp Comp Louisiana      | Oil/Gas             |                 |
| 39  | Morrison (W)            | Foods               |                 |
| 40  | BAT (as)                | Tobaccos            |                 |
| 41  | Nat West (as)           | Banks, Discount     |                 |
| 42  | Mark's Spencers (as)    | Drapery, Stores     |                 |
| 43  | Grayson                 | Property            |                 |
| 44  | High-Frost              | Industrials E-K     |                 |
|     | GT Times Newspapers Ltd | Daily Total         |                 |

Please take into account any minus signs.

### Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000. In Saturday's newspaper.

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | Total |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
|     |     |     |     |     |     |       |

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

### BRITISH FUNDS

| No. | Fund   | Code | Value   | Yield  |
|-----|--------|------|---------|--------|
| 1   | Shorts | SHRT | 255,100 | 11.88% |
| 2   | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 3   | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 4   | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 5   | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 6   | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 7   | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 8   | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 9   | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 10  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 11  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 12  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 13  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 14  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 15  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 16  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 17  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 18  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 19  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 20  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 21  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 22  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 23  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 24  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 25  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 26  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 27  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 28  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 29  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 30  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 31  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 32  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 33  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 34  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 35  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 36  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 37  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 38  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 39  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 40  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 41  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 42  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 43  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 44  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 45  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 46  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 47  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 48  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 49  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 50  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 51  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 52  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 53  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 54  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 55  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 56  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 57  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 58  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 59  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 60  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 61  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 62  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 63  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 64  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 65  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 66  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 67  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 68  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 69  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 70  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 71  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 72  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 73  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 74  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 75  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 76  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 77  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 78  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 79  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 80  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 81  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 82  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 83  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 84  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 85  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 86  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 87  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 88  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 89  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 90  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 91  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 92  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 93  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 94  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 95  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 96  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 97  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 98  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 99  | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 100 | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 101 | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 102 | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 103 | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 104 | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 105 | Shorts | SHRT | 255,000 | 11.88% |
| 106 | Shorts | SHRT | 25      |        |

## THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

## UNLISTED SECURITIES

| Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 96.0 (day's range 95.0-96.1).  |                 |                 |             |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES  |                 |                 |             |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Market rates for August 15   |                 |                 |             |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Range  |                 |                 |             |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| New York   | 1.9015-1.9045   | 1.9020-1.9060   | 1.11-1.05pr | 3.29-3.27pr |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Moscow   | 2.1725-2.1770   | 2.1740-2.1770   | 0.32-0.39pr | 0.59-0.60pr |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amsterdam  | 3.3400-3.3484   | 3.3400-3.3445   | 15-14pr     | 5-4pr       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Brussels   | 50.88-51.24     | 50.86-51.11     | 30-28pr     | 87-82pr     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Copenhagen   | 11.2979-11.3071 | 11.2979-11.3229 | 4-4pr       | 15-12pr     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dublin   | 1.1049-1.1074   | 1.1055-1.1088   | 43-37pr     | 120-110pr   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Frankfurt  | 2.9682-2.9734   | 2.9700-2.9734   | 1-1pr       | 41-36pr     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lisbon   | 261.43-282.52   | 261.43-282.52   | 85-57pr     | 115-53pr    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Madrid   | 151.40-152.74   | 151.54-152.12   | 5-1pr       | 16-17pr     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Milan  | 237.94-219.92   | 217.94-217.98   | 8-5pr       | 11-17pr     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Oslo   | 11.4843-11.5387 | 11.4843-11.5083 | 41-34pr     | 124-111pr   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Paris  | 9.9632-9.9861   | 9.9632-9.9879   | 41-44pr     | 65-68pr     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Stockholm  | 10.3070-10.3527 | 10.3070-10.3527 | 215-24pr    | 5-6pr       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tokyo  | 279.50-281.21   | 278.69-280.03   | 11-14pr     | 5-6pr       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Vienna   | 20.85-20.92     | 20.83-20.93     | 11%-10%pr   | 35%-31%pr   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zurich   | 2.4707-2.4756   | 2.4720-2.4756   | 1%-1%pr     | 3%-3%pr     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Premium = pr. Discount = dc.   |                 |                 |             |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DOLLAR SPOT RATES  |                 |                 |             |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ireland  | 1.7230-1.7245   | 1.7230-1.7245   |             |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Singapore  | 1.7955-1.7965   | 1.7955-1.7965   |             |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Malaysia   | 2.6880-2.6940   | 2.6880-2.6940   |             |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Australia  | 1.2371-1.2385   | 1.2371-1.2385   |             |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Canada   | 1.1430-1.1435   | 1.1430-1.1435   |             |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sweden   | 5.7395-5.7470   | 5.7395-5.7470   |             |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Norway   | 6.0425-6.0500   | 6.0425-6.0500   |             |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Loyd's Bank. Rates supplied by  |                 |                 |             |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Barclays Bank GTS and E&E.   |                 |                 |             |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MONEY MARKETS  |                 |                 |             |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Base Rates for Clearing Banks 15 Finance Hes 15%   |                 |                 |             |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Discounts Market Lows 15%  |                 |                 |             |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Overnight: 14% Low 13 Week (fixed: 14%)  |                 |                 |             |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Treasury Bills (Discount %)  |                 |                 |             |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Buying: 2 mth - 14% 3 mth - 14% 1/2  |                 |                 |             |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Selling: 2 mth - 14% 3 mth - 14% 1/2   |                 |                 |             |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Prime Bank Bills (Discount %): 1 mth: 14% 1/2-14% 2 mth: 14% 1/2-14% 3 mth: 14% 1/2-14% 6 mth: 13% 1/2-14% 1 year: 13% 1/2-14% 2 years: 13% 1/2-14% 3 years: 13% 1/2-14% 5 years: 13% 1/2-14% 10 years: 13% 1/2-14% 15 years: 13% 1/2-14% 20 years: 13% 1/2-14% 25 years: 13% 1/2-14% 30 years: 13% 1/2-14% 35 years: 13% 1/2-14% 40 years: 13% 1/2-14% 45 years: 13% 1/2-14% 50 years: 13% 1/2-14% 55 years: 13% 1/2-14% 60 years: 13% 1/2-14% 65 years: 13% 1/2-14% 70 years: 13% 1/2-14% 75 years: 13% 1/2-14% 80 years: 13% 1/2-14% 85 years: 13% 1/2-14% 90 years: 13% 1/2-14% 95 years: 13% 1/2-14% 100 years: 13% 1/2-14% 105 years: 13% 1/2-14% 110 years: 13% 1/2-14% 115 years: 13% 1/2-14% 120 years: 13% 1/2-14% 125 years: 13% 1/2-14% 130 years: 13% 1/2-14% 135 years: 13% 1/2-14% 140 years: 13% 1/2-14% 145 years: 13% 1/2-14% 150 years: 13% 1/2-14% 155 years: 13% 1/2-14% 160 years: 13% 1/2-14% 165 years: 13% 1/2-14% 170 years: 13% 1/2-14% 175 years: 13% 1/2-14% 180 years: 13% 1/2-14% 185 years: 13% 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# Promising Hillzah to gain further glory for Walwyn

By MANDARIN

PETER Walwyn, the experienced Lambourn trainer, looks to have an above-average crop of two-year-olds this season.

His Mukaddamah, who is due to reappear in next month's Champagne Stakes at Doncaster, gained a host of admirers at glorious Goodwood after an impressive victory over Flying Brave in the Lanson Champagne Vintage Stakes.

Another Seven Barrows juvenile filly, who is likely to be in action at Newbury this weekend, also caught the eye when chasing up Majloot at the Sussex meeting.

At Salisbury today, Walwyn saddles his Sandown winner Hillzah for the Whitchurch Stakes, and this blushing Groom colt can confirm his early promise with another victory.

Ridden by Geoff Baxter at Sandown, Hillzah belied his odds of 33-1 by staying on too resolutely for John Dunlop's well-supported Alnab to win by two lengths.

Alnab upheld the form next time out with a fluent



Candy: high hopes for improving Choir Practice

victory at the Goodwood meeting so, with the expectation of plenty of scope for improvement, Hillzah is fancied to get the better of another Sandown scorer, James Eustace's Tapach, and the more experienced Les Animaux Naufragés.

It is good to see Guy Harwood's attractive colt Young Jazz fully recovered from his split-pastern injury incurred early in his three-year-old career at Newmarket.

He made his return at Sandown last month, but after endeavouring to make all the running in a mile maiden event, was caught in the very last stride by Luca Cumani's Live Action.

Young Jazz quickly reappeared at Newcastle in another maiden event over a furlong further, and had to pull out all the stops to get the better of Mr C Fox by a head.

The runner-up that day may prove in time to be a useful performer and I expect Young Jazz to carry on the good work by defying 10 stone in the Totem Bookmakers Handicap at the expense of David Elsworth's Kempton winner Damask.

After several disappointing efforts, Dick Hern's Snowspin certainly opened her account in style at Brighton, beating the runner-up by 20 lengths.

In this frame of mind, the Carville filly should follow up successfully in the Violet Fillies' Stakes and another Newmarket raider Michael Stoute's Traful can take the Freemen's Maiden Stakes.

This Chief Singer colt has only had two outings, but at

Newmarket, after making little show in that competitive maiden won by Lord Charmer, he improved considerably on his debut by finishing a close-up fifth to Durhan over a mile.

The form of that event looks rock-solid with State Dancer, French Senior and Croucher all subsequently winning.

Roger Charlton's Crowning Ambition is bound to attract support following her second to Kinlacy at Leicester, but Henry Candy, who was on the mark at the Wiltshire course yesterday with Bold Bostonian, can collect another success.

At Beverley, Ben Hanbury's Beyoumaha, who was a promising sixth on her debut behind Love Of The Arts at Yarmouth, looks capable of capturing the Routh Maiden Fillies' Stakes and another Newmarket raider Michael Stoute's Traful can take the Freemen's Maiden Stakes.

Each colt has had an uninterrupted preparation for this step up to group race class and Robert Armstrong said: "I am very pleased with Majloot's progress since his last run. He has grown quite a lot since then and is definitely an intended runner."

Clive Brittain was his usual

shy self about the chances of Mystic, whose racecourse form to date suggests he will need to improve to trouble his main rival at York. Brittain said: "I am delighted with Mystic's recent work and we think he has gone the right way since his Newmarket win."

Distinctly North, who ran a fine race in Sunday's Heinz 57 Phoenix Stakes when failing by a neck to catch Mac's Imp, will be supported by Jack Berry in Wednesday's contest.

Meanwhile, Armstrong will be hoping that the stable's juveniles get a timely boost with Act Of Diplomacy in Tuesday's Acomb Stakes.

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## Smart colts clash in Gimcrack

MUSTAHID and Mystic, already regarded as serious 1991 2,000 Guineas candidates, are on course for a clash in next Wednesday's Scottish Equitable Gimcrack Stakes at York.

Both Newmarket-based two-year-olds were impressive over six furlongs at their home track on their most recent start — Majloot when beating Mac's Imp by seven lengths in last month's Aegis Television July Stakes and Mystic when coasting home in maiden company 11 days ago.

Each colt has had an uninterrupted preparation for this step up to group race class and Robert Armstrong said: "I am very pleased with Majloot's progress since his last run. He has grown quite a lot since then and is definitely an intended runner."

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## SOUTHWELL

### Selections

By Mandarin

3.30 Campai. 4.0 Anfield Sally. 4.30 Festival Of Magic. 5.0 Podrida. 5.30 Gondo. 6.0 Passed Pawn. 6.5 Do I Know You.

Our Newmarket Correspondent

3.30 Campai. 4.30 FESTIVAL OF MAGIC (nap). 5.0 Podrida. 5.30 Gondo. 6.0 Passed Pawn. 6.5 Do I Know You.

Going: standard. Draw 61-71, low numbers best

3.00 LODDON LIVESTOCK MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: 2-2568; 1m) (8 runners)

1 2862 CAMPAGNA (F) R Armstrong 9-0. 2 3042 DAELIC DANCER 24-2. 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# SPORT

THURSDAY AUGUST 16 1990

## Capel provides driving force for Northants

By RICHARD STREETON

HAMPSHIRE were battling hard to avoid defeat in the semi-final round for the fifth time in eight years yesterday, as their NatWest Trophy match with Northamptonshire neared its climax at Southampton, Hampshire, chasing 285 to win, still wanted 147 from the final 20 overs as the light faded.

David Gower and Malcolm Marshall, who came together at 55 for three, kept their team's hopes alive with a stand which gathered momentum with every over, though both gave chances. Overall it was a day of fluctuating cricket for a capacity 5,500 crowd, whose spirits gusty winds and passing showers were unable to dampen.

Hampshire, who chose to field first, lost Chris Smith in the fourth over when he tried to cut a long hop from Robinson and was caught at deep point. Robin Smith attacked the bowling and took ten from Capel's first over. Capel, who has only bowled 18 overs in six weeks because of a back injury, then had Smith caught behind. Terry skinned a catch to mid-on as he moved out against Cook's left-arm spin.

Capel, driving vigorously through the covers, was responsible just after the half-way point for a much-needed spur being applied to the Northamptonshire innings. He was the first to take on Marshall, who previously had set the tone as the Hampshire bowlers restricted the runrate.

Lamb followed suit in refusing to be tied down and Williams and Ambrose contributed usefully in the closing overs. By the time the Northamptonshire innings ended, they had reached their

against Connor, however, when he and Bailey fell to successive balls. First Bailey was deceived by Connor's late movement. At the other end, Lamb bowed his head in self-reproach as he tried to sweep Maru and lobbed a simple catch to backward short-leg.

Northamptonshire were 205 for six in the 48th over and it was Williams, that much under-rated player, who now made certain that Hampshire would not be allowed to bring the innings to a rapid finish. Ripley lingered briefly before he was splendidly held low at slip by Maru when Marshall came back. Ambrose spurned a helmet against his fellow West Indian and Marshall spared him nothing, but the honours were shared in a tense, little duel.

When Ambrose was finally stumped in the penultimate over, the eighth wicket pair had put on 42 in six overs. Williams was bowled by the penultimate ball of the innings.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
A. P. Lamb c A. Bailey b Cook 1  
W. Williams c Cook b Connor 31  
"A" J. Lamb c G. L. Smith b Maru 48  
D. J. Capel c Nicholas b Maru 43  
R. G. Williams c Connor b Connor 44  
R. G. Williams c Connor b Connor 44  
D. J. Ripley c Maru b Maru 7  
C. E. L. Ambrose c Parker b Aylng 22  
M. A. Robinson c Parker b Aylng 22  
M. A. Robinson c Connor 0  
Extras (6 b, 6 w, 8 nb, 1) 18  
Total (50 overs) 264

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-70, 3-111, 4-120, 5-130, 6-142, 7-150, 8-159, 9-168, 10-178, 11-188, 12-198, 13-207, 14-217, 15-227, 16-237, 17-247, 18-257, 19-267, 20-277, 21-287, 22-297, 23-307, 24-317, 25-327, 26-337, 27-347, 28-357, 29-367, 30-377, 31-387, 32-397, 33-407, 34-417, 35-427, 36-437, 37-447, 38-457, 39-467, 40-477, 41-487, 42-497, 43-507, 44-517, 45-527, 46-537, 47-547, 48-557, 49-567, 50-577.

BOWLING: Marshall 13-3-71-1; Parker 12-2-41-1; Connor 12-1-73-4; Aylng 12-7-2; Maru 12-0-41-1.

Umpires: K. Lyons and G. Whitehead.

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